



When gazing up at Peruvian condors, just remember those big birds eat a lot.

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Designers dig to paste together an image of their lives.

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Kissinger is optimistic about China, and says you should be too.

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A story of generations

Mother vs daughter; traditional vs modern

Mother Luo Lili and daughter Gao Yanjinzi spent over six long months creating their dance. In *Jue-Aware*, the duo grapples, through dance, with the boundaries between tradition and modernity and the gap between the pre and post Cultural Revolution generations.

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Photo by Tian Yufeng

Urn bandits
apprehended
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Beijing optimizes its bus lines

By Gan Tian

Starting April 14, the city's bus system will see 24 lines removed from the map, 12 adjusted and 40 opened, according to the 2007 New Bus Lines Optimization plans released Tuesday.

The new plan, put forward by Beijing Public Transport Holdings Ltd., will withdraw nine bus lines from Chang'an Avenue as they overlap with each other too much. Forty-two

bus stations, with 15 left-turns, are to disappear. Beijing Railway Station will lose three lines, and Beijing West Railway Station will lose five.

This is the fifth time Beijing has optimized public transit lines. The plan's main goals are to "lessen the burden on downtown and open new lines around the rim of the urban core." The lines will connect the city's ring roads with their surrounding

neighborhoods. More than 100 residential districts, including Baiziwan, Wanquansi and Fangzhuang, will benefit from the optimization.

Beijing also saw the founding of the Traffic Emergency Commander Center on Monday. The center can receive 3,600 message feeds through thirteen traffic departments. This year, 3,600 more traffic monitors will be installed, doubling the cur-

rent capacity. "Before Olympics, the number of traffic monitors will exceed 10,000," Li Haiyi, director of the newly-built center, said.

The monitors will be installed mainly in buses along Chang'an Avenue, subway cars, long-distance buses and at other important traffic hubs. Most of the city will be covered by the traffic surveillance. "Different areas' traffic depart-

ments are using their own messages. After the center is built, signals from bus traffic, rail traffic, highways, even airlines will be combined together," said the vice-director of the Communication Committee.

The center is packing modern equipment, including a "traffic emergency commander car," a mobile unit that can monitor traffic situations three to 20 kilometers away.

Anti-moth campaign launched for Olympics

By Qiu Jiaoning

Beijing and surrounding areas will launch a campaign to wipe out the American white moth, or *Hyphantria cunea*, in order to guarantee a Green Olympics in 2008, the State Forestry Administration (SFA) said Tuesday.

The small leaf-eating white moths, harmful forest migrants from North America, are expected to strike another 47,000 hectares of trees in the Beijing area this year, Wei Diansheng, head of the SFA's Tree Planting and Forestation Department, said at a press conference on Tuesday.

For the anti-moth action, Beijing and its surrounding areas are preparing 2,400 pesticide-spraying planes, 4,000 insecticide lamps, 10 billion tiny bees, the moth's natural enemy, 400 tons of American white moth virus and more than 65.9 million yuan for a special fund.

"Beijing and the surrounding 20 kilometers are the focus of the campaign," Wu Jian, a chief engineer with SFA, said, "The main actions within the region are the use of bees and white moth virus."

If the pest is not effectively controlled, Beijing's Green Olympics might turn into a brown one, Wu noted. Beijing and Hebei planned to use planes spraying insecticide on 115,000 hectares of trees under threat of becoming moth fodder.

According to SFA statistics, the moth is threatening plants and crops in six provinces and municipalities in China, including 116 counties, of which Beijing and its immediate neighbors are most at risk. The warm winter climate and a high ratio of young trees in China's forests raise the risk of invasive alien species.

SFA statistics show 156,000 hectares of trees were stricken by moths in 2005, and an additional 67,000 hectares were affected in 2006.

The moth was first detected in Liaoning in 1979, and first spotted in Beijing and surrounding areas, including Tianjin Municipality and Hebei, in 2005.

Foreigners able to sit in on Chinese IPR trials

By Chu Meng

China plans to improve the transparency of intellectual property rights (IPR) trials by allowing foreigners to sit in the courtroom, a senior official from the Supreme People's Court said in Beijing Wednesday at a press conference.

"Envoys of foreign governments and representatives of international organizations will be allowed to attend IPR trials if they wish," Jiang Zengwei, a State Office of Intellectual Property Protection official, said.

The country will publicize

important trial information through the media, according to the new regulations released on Wednesday. This is the first time China has allowed foreign governments and representatives of international organizations to sit in on public IPR trials, an official from the Supreme People's Court said.

Diplomatic envoys and representatives of overseas companies involved in IPR disputes have been invited to trials in coastal regions like Shanghai and Guangdong Province in recent years.

Chinese Vice Premier Wu Yi

said on March 27 that the government would further improve IPR protection, strengthen law enforcement and enhance cooperation with other countries.

From 2002 to 2006, China's courts settled a total of 931 IPR violation cases in first instance trials. The figure for 2006 was 353 cases, up 52 percent on the previous year, according to the Supreme People's Court.

China's national strategy on IPR protection will come out in the first half of this year. It is composed of 20 topics and one guideline, covering

system building, law enforcement, talent training and public awareness regarding IPR protection.

Ken Torok, president of Asia Pacific Region of the United Parcel Service Singapore Pte Ltd. said, "I am quite pleased to see the progress that the Chinese government has made to protect trade marks."

Kevin Wale, president and managing director of GM China group and Andre Dallaire, CEO of Northeast Asia, Chubb Group of Insurance Companies also gave positive comments to China's progress in IPR protection.

Stars as the ambassadors for the Japan-China Exchange Year



Japanese singer Noriko Sakai (right) and Japanese table tennis athlete Ai Fukuhara show the logo of "The Japan-China Exchange Year of Culture and Sports 2007" in Tokyo yesterday at a press conference for the ambassadors of the exchange year.

Xinhua Photo

75 percent of emerging diseases in China caused by livestock, WHO says

By Qiu Jiaoning

China's sizable population and large agricultural industry make infectious diseases an acute public health risk. Some 75 percent of emerging diseases in the country come from its sizable animal population, a WHO spokesman announced on World Health Day, April 7.

"One of the key measures for managing communicable diseases is improving animal husbandry practices and implementing local and national systems for surveillance and rapid response," Henk Bekedam, the WHO representative in China, said.

A WHO spokesman said it

will continue to support China in fighting health security threats. The organization is working through its headquarters in Geneva, regional headquarters for the West Pacific in Manila and the China Country office to provide China with timely policy advice and technical expertise.

Bekedam said this year's World Health Day is an important reminder that many health threats do not respect national borders, and that all countries are partners in the fight for international health security. China has been actively responding to the growing interdependence of health and security, Bekedam said.

In China, emerging communicable diseases such as SARS and avian influenza brought home the very real threats to international security that health problems can pose. Other threats to international health security include infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, bioterrorism, humanitarian emergencies, environmental damage and food safety.

"For China and the rest of the world, SARS was a wake-up call. In recent years China has made genuine progress in strengthening its capacity to deal with health security threats," Bekedam noted.

NFL calls off China Bowl

By Huang Daohen

The American National Football League (NFL) determined this Monday that its first overseas exhibition game, initially scheduled for Beijing, will be postponed, as the league focuses its global resources this year on the regular season game in London on October 28, with the Miami Dolphins facing the New York Giants.

The China Bowl, the American Bowl preseason game in China, had been set for August 9 in Beijing between the New England Patriots and Seattle Seahawks.

Working in partnership with the Beijing municipal authorities, the NFL will plan to play a game at the National Stadium of Beijing in August of 2009, NFL spokesman Michael Signora said Monday.

"As a new sport in China, it is critical that we create the best platform for the introduction of the game. We are delighted Beijing authorities have agreed with our assessment and have invited us to play in Beijing in 2009," Mark Waller, head of NFL International, said in a statement issued by the league.

"Our assessment is that Chinese fans would be better served if our game in China is played at a later date after we have launched our international series of regular-season games and more effectively paved the way for the introduction of our game into China," Waller added.

Thought the game was rescheduled, Chinese fans showed their understanding. "I think it is smart that they allowed themselves two years," a local resident surnamed Liu said.

"Why should the NFL fly all the way to China just to play a meaningless game in front of a smattering of disinterested fans? I applaud the league's attempt to allow itself the time to lay the ground work for a successful NFL rollout," Liu said.

Urn bandits apprehended in Babaoshan Cemetery

By Chu Meng

Three suspects were arrested by Beijing Public Security Bureau's Shijingshan branch this week, just before Qing Ming Festival, for stealing four urns and extorting around 280,000 yuan from Beijing Babaoshan Cemetery.

Thursday was Qing Ming Festival, a day to hold memorial ceremonies for the lost relatives. In China, people often go to sweep and weed graves with the whole family.

"For the two weeks surrounding

Qing Ming to the one after, Beijing citizens crowd into Babaoshan Cemetery either to install a more luxurious urn for their dead relatives, or to put commemorative jewelry on an old one. There are 50,000 visitors on each peak day. Criminals are rampant during these weeks," Beijing Funeral and Interment Director Huang Qianqian said, Wednesday.

"Five cemeteries in the city – Babaoshan Cemetery, Laoshan Urn Deposit Hall and Wan'an Cemetery – all reported cases of urn

theft in the past 10 weeks. Black-mailing phone calls were reported by administration offices and the relatives of the deceased as well," an official from Beijing Public Security Bureau said.

"Using digital camera records from the urn deposit hall in Babaoshan, we identified four suspects that appeared many times in the hall. The latest footage clearly showed them making off with an urn, working as a group. Last Sunday night, the police caught them in the act when they attempted to steal

more urns," he said.

Urn theft has been on the rise in Beijing. The criminals target luxury urns and commemorative jewels. In the more serious cases, they have even blackmailed cemeteries or relatives of the deceased.

"Such cases will decrease in the future, as more than 400 digital cameras have been installed in four major Beijing burial grounds and their urn deposit halls. The public offices can easily monitor suspects in the halls," Huang said.

Jackie Chan finds successors through TV show

Beijing (CRIENGLISH.com) – A worldwide TV competition to select successors to action superstar Jackie Chan will be launched at the Shangri-La Hotel in Beijing on Saturday.

Jackie Chan will fly to Beijing to attend the launch from the United States, where he is shooting Hollywood blockbuster *Rush Hour 3*. The star will perform the theme song "The Dream of Dragon" to encourage all the contestants.

Many A-list guest stars, including Yuen Wah, Yuen Qiu, Stanley Tong and Zhou Xun, will also attend the ceremony.

The TV show is jointly produced by Beijing TV, JCE Entertainment Ltd, China Film Group and Hong Kong-based Emperor Entertainment Group.

Applications for the show began on January 1. Anyone between 18 to 28 with an action performance background can apply to participate.

The final competition is scheduled to take place this October at the Great Wall, and will be broadcast live on Beijing TV.

The 10 finalists are expected to receive professional training at Jackie Chan's JCE Entertainment Ltd. They will star in lead roles in several upcoming movies produced by Jackie Chan. Outstanding selections are expected to be his successors.

Qing imperial seals shown publicly

By Jackie Zhang

Twenty-five authentic imperial seals from the Qing Dynasty (1644-1912) are on display at Beijing Yalinxuan Tourism and Cultural Artistic Center. The seals are complete royal signets that have been handed down from Qing times to present day.

Imperial seals, representing position and power, are the highest in the official seal system. They were reserved exclusively for emperors' use.

The 25 seals displayed include every level of Qing authority: conscription, conferring the title of imperial concubine, honoring officials or contributors and absolving criminals. The seals are in both Chinese and Manchu, except for one which is Manchu only.

"The imperial seals were collected in 2001 by the First Historical Archives of China," Wang Wuji, director of Yalinxuan, said.

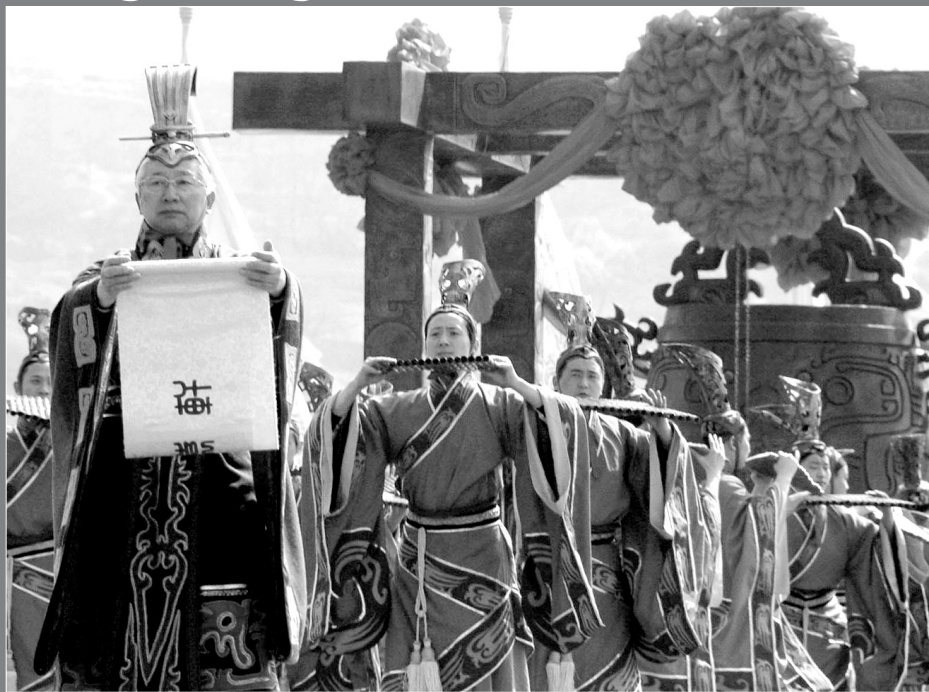
"It was authorized by the government for the archives to compile this work in cooperation with the Palace Museum. The staff stamped the seals on a whole piece of rice paper using the same inkpads the royal family used to use. The paper was mounted on yellow damask, which was formerly reserved for emperors' use. Only 199 copies were made and gifted to foreign government officials. Around 10 are in the hands of private collectors."

"The manager of our company is interested in Chinese history and old Beijing. The works on display were gifts from his friends," he said.

Each print has a superscript and postscript done by 47 famous Chinese calligraphers, including Qi Gong and Shi Shuqing. There are also captions besides each seal explaining its name and function.

"The collection shown in Yalinxuan is valuable for another reason: the calligrapher who wrote the subscript is Aisin-Gioro Yuzhan, the nephew of Aisin-Gioro Puyi, the last Qing emperor, and a famous calligraphy master," Wang said.

Ancient emperor honored on Qing Ming Festival



Tens of thousands held a ceremony yesterday on the traditional Qing Ming Festival to pay their respects to the Emperor Huang, their common ancestor, in Hungling, Shaanxi Province.

Xinhua Photo

Crazed chaperone carves up 20, claims schizophrenia

By Annie Wei

A tour took an unexpected turn for 20, including a two-month-old baby girl, when they were knifed by their guide last Sunday afternoon during a relaxing trip down Sifang Jie, the commercial street in Lijiang, Yunnan Province.

The guide, Xu Minchao, employed by Rime Travel in Jilin, was charged with escorting a group of 40 travelers through Jilin, Guiyang, Kunming, Dali, Lijiang, Kunming, Zhangjiajie and back to Jilin on March 26, Lijiang police said.

A witness, surnamed "Lü" who runs a scarf store, said she saw the owner of a store opposite hers shouting "Help!" around 4 pm, as a young man in white shirt fled, pursued by a man brandishing a knife and wearing a black T-shirt. The owner, blood streaming from her ear, asked Lü to call the police, she said.

Hong Yuhua, the 17-year-old nanny of the injured two-month old baby, was slashed in her face and neck. Hong said neither she, the baby nor the baby's mother had expected any danger.

Another seven-year-old boy was almost fatally slashed across his neck while he walking to the door after finishing his homework.

Li Chaohong, director of the information department of Lijiang's local committee, said that Xu was "very moody."

On the way from Kunming to Lijiang, Xu had several arguments with Peng Liping, another tour guide from Yunnan Dajia Travel (YDT), about shopping and travel routines.

Staff from YDT denied that Xu's behavior was caused by Peng. "Some tourists said that Xu was very moody even before he stabbed everyone. He was crying on the bus."

Lijiang police arrested Xu. According to police records, Xu has been anti-social ever since his parents divorced.

However, his father, a 48-year-old farmer from Suihua, Heilongjiang, said Xu was diagnosed as being schizophrenic under pressure in 1998, when Xu was only 16 and preparing for the high school entrance exam. With medicine and treatment, Xu was fine during his school years.

The vice manager of Jilin Rime Travel, surnamed "Zhang," said Xu graduated from university in 2005 and was certified last year. He has worked part-time for the agency since then.

Zhang said Xu had taken 15 or 16 groups and never had a complaint from previous tourists. After the incident, Rime Travel arranged the remaining tourists to finish their tour Tuesday.

The other tourists appear to be all right, Zhang said.

Brief news

Blue skies over Beijing

The capital saw 55 days with "blue sky," considered an indicator of good air quality, during the first three months of this year – four days more than the same period last year, according to a report by the Beijing Environmental Protection Bureau.

Lethal drivers

A total of 78,000 traffic accidents during the first three months of this year ended as many as 18,000 lives in the capital, and injured 93,000 people, a Ministry of Public Security spokesman said this week.

Surge in outward investment

The country's outward investment in 200 countries and regions around the world reached a total of more than US\$16 billion last year, up 32 percent from 2005, according to a Ministry of Commerce report.

Bribery in the health sector

Officials investigated 2,800 cases of commercial bribery in the health sector last year. About 100 million yuan (US\$12.8 million) is involved, a Ministry of Health spokesman said.

Impending illiteracy problem

China's population of illiterates has shot up to 116 million people, up 30 million from five years ago, Gao Xuegui, director of the illiteracy eradication office of the Ministry of Education basic education department, said.

(By Jiang Xubo)

No clowning around

Fast-food giants slammed for breaking labor laws

By Huang Daohen

If you've ever wondered how much a Chinese part-time employee at McDonald's makes per hour, *Beijing Today* has the answer: 4 yuan (US\$0.5). It's about enough to buy one third of a hamburger.

Apparently the employees aren't "lovin' it" anymore. A spokesman for the All-China Federation of Trade Unions (ACFTU) said Tuesday that McDonald's, KFC and Pizza Hut have violated the country's labor laws by underpaying part-time workers in Guangzhou, Guangdong.

Four yuan per hour

The case drew attention last week when *New Express*, a local newspaper, reported that the global fast-food chains were violating labor laws by underpaying part-time workers, most of whom are college students.

The southern metropolis set its minimum wage at 7.5 yuan (97 cents) per hour for part-time workers at the beginning of the year, but undercover investigations found that McDonald's still pays only four yuan (US\$0.52), KFC 4.7 yuan (US\$0.61) and Pizza Hut five yuan (US\$0.65) per hour to its part-timers.

"The three fast-food chains have asked the part-timers to work longer than the maximum five hours a day, deliberately

refused to sign labor contracts or insure them against workplace injuries and prolonged their probation periods," Huang Jun (alias), one of the reporters who went undercover and worked part-time at McDonald's, said.

Huang said her newspaper had received many complaints

The fast-food giants are required to correct their actions and pay workers properly.

before they began the investigation. "What we've uncovered is alarming," she said. About 70 percent of the part-timers are college students, Huang said, "I really wonder how they can manage their studies after such exhausting work."

Breaking the law

After the giants were exposed, the ACFTU called on its office in Guangdong to "get the truth as soon as possible." A joint investigation conducted by the Guangdong Provincial Trade Union and labor authorities probed into the employment of part-time workers by US-based fast-food chains KFC, McDonald's and Pizza Hut.

The results of the investigation, released by the ACFTU in Beijing, Tuesday, confirmed the companies' illegal practices. "The federation will uncompromisingly fight any practice that violates workers' rights," Li

Shouzheng, a senior official at the ACFTU, said.

McDonald's contract varies store to store

After the fast-food giants in Guangzhou were confirmed to be breaking labor laws, *Beijing Today* conducted an investigation among the three chains here in Beijing, Wednesday.

Wang Jin (alias), the manager at the McDonald's Wangfujing franchise, said that employees work hourly and have a six-month trial period. The wage is 7.6 yuan per hour, and employees sign a yearly contract which does not include insurance. Employees include full-time workers and students working part-time, he said. Everyone can work up to 6.5 hours per day, with a maximum of 40 hours per month for part-timers. Wang says all employees are paid in accordance with the national standard.

However, at the Xueyuan Lu franchise, an employee unwilling to disclose his name said he works no more than four hours per day, and does not have a contract. "Most of my colleagues don't have contracts either – it's common here," he said.

Calls to the McDonald's Global HQ went unanswered.

KFC not chickening out on laws

KFC staff, according to the Tuanjiehu branch manager, surnamed Zhang, have no trial period and sign a six-month contract. Regarding wages, Zhang said employees earn 6.8 yuan per hour, and newcomers are limited to four hours. If they perform well, they can work up to eight hours. The maximum number of hours per month is 167, Zhang said.

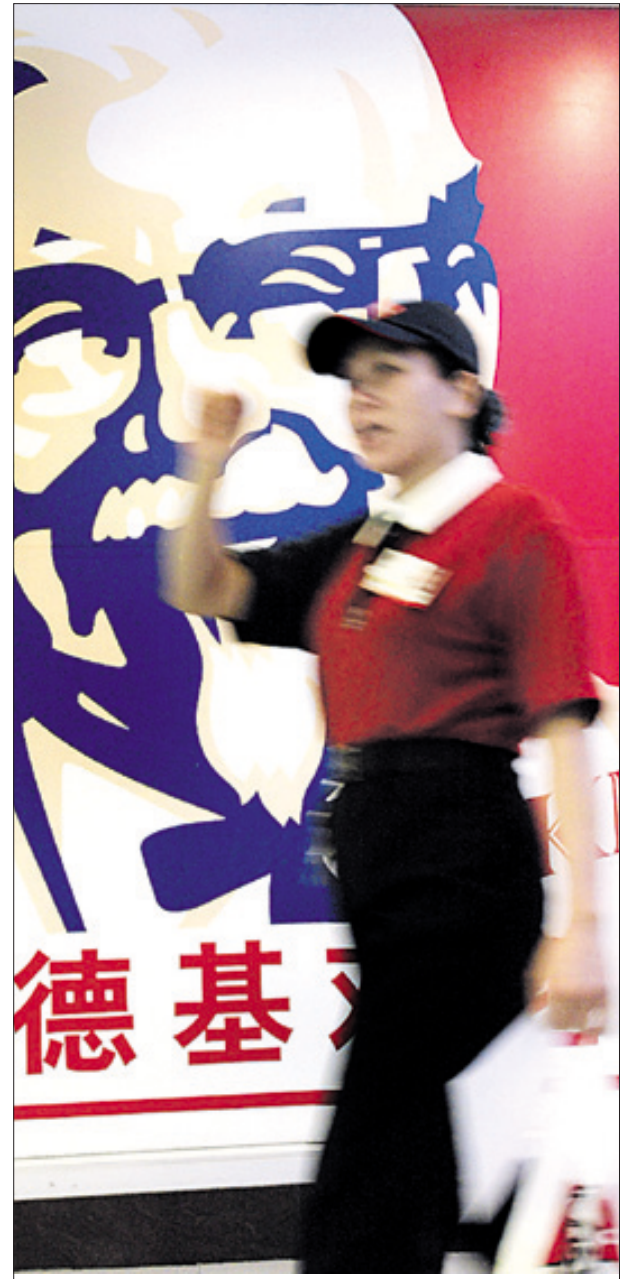
A spokesman for the Department of Public Affairs of KFC Global said, KFC and Pizza Hut, under the administration of Yum! Brands Inc, have consistently followed Chinese law, and staff wages are regularly adjusted to comply with changes in the national standard.

KFC claimed to maintain contact with the Guangdong Provincial labor department, and ensured the company was meeting the legal requirements.

Correcting mistakes

The fast-food giants are required to correct their actions and pay workers properly, Li, the ACFTU official, said during Tuesday's briefing.

Local trade unions in other provinces, including Hubei,



Part-timers often have to wipe down the windows.

Fujian and Liaoning, have been asked to conduct similar investigations into fast-food payment practices, Li said.

He also said that the fed-

lished trade unions, with a total membership of 4.29 million.

Beijing authorities

Last July, the minimum wage for part-time employees was raised from 7.3 yuan and 7.9 yuan per hour, according to the Beijing Municipal Labor and Social Security Bureau.

The adjustment applied to McDonald's, KFC and Pizza Hut, as well as other foreign-owned companies, a bureau spokesman said. No company should enjoy special privileges in China, and no company should be allowed to have in-house rules that violate the country's law. Any victims of practices which violate the law are urged to call the bureau for help, he said.

McDonald's and KFC have nearly 3,000 outlets across China and employ a workforce of nearly 200,000, the ACFTU spokesman said.

‘The three fast-food chains have asked the part-timers to work longer than the maximum five hours a day, deliberately refused to sign labor contracts or insure them against workplace injuries and prolonged their probation periods.’

eration and the Ministry of Labor and Social Security will launch a nationwide check next month on payment, minimum wage and labor contracts in the enterprises.

The ACFTU instructed its Guangdong branch to negotiate with the companies to set up trade unions, he said. Thus far, ACFTU statistics show that 26 percent of China's 150,000 overseas-funded enterprises have estab-



A male part-timer cleans up McDonald's Qianmen branch.

CFP Photos

China's high-income earners spurn tax-collectors

Hong Kong (Tax-News.com) – China's State Administration of Taxation said that as of last week only 1.37 million people had filed tax returns out of the estimated 7 million high-income earners who ought to have filed by the deadline of March 31 and out of an estimated total of 75 million taxpayers.

Last November, tax authorities had announced that high earners (including foreigners), who earn more than 120,000 yuan (US\$15,000) per year will be required to report their income directly to the tax authorities within three months after the end of each tax year.

Expert comment

By Jiang Xubo

High-income earners' were reluctant to file tax returns, but the campaign might collect data and provide valuable experience as a first step towards replacing the current flat tax with a system of progressive brackets, An Tifu, professor from the School of Finance, Renmin University of China, said.

"This is the first time the country has required high-income earners to declare their incomes on their own. What's more, the tax authority

launched education about the process just one month before it started collecting the tax this January, so many taxpayers didn't know how to do it. The country also failed to provide comprehensive tax services, which made it inconvenient to file tax returns," he said.

In addition, many high-income earners might have thought it was unlikely that the government could know exactly how much they had earned. Tax administration in foreign countries may point to solution,

according to An.

"First, the country should give each resident a card with a unique tax ID number. Second, the tax authority should establish a system measuring peoples' income in currency, which may come from different sources and include incentives. Third, the tax offices could share data with the country's banks, industrial and commercial authorities and customs officials, which would enable them to get a more accurate idea of how much people have earned," he said.

China to spend less on Olympic security

Beijing (AP) – China will spend less on Olympic security than other recent hosts of the Summer Games but is confident the 2008 competition will be trouble-free, a security official said Wednesday.

International demands to boost security in the wake of September 11 terror attacks on New York and Washington pushed costs for the 2004 Summer Games in Athens to a record-breaking \$1.5 billion.

"Our costs will be controlled below that of other countries when they held the Games, while also ensuring that the security work proceeds smoothly," Liu Shaowu, head of security of the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games, said.

State media reported last month that plans drawn up in 2005 allocated \$300 million for security, only about 20 percent of the amount spent in Athens.

Classic cars rally to mark Hong Kong's return



A rally featuring eight vintage automobiles, with the oldest dating back to 1918, stopped at Lianyungang, Jiangsu Province this Thursday. The car rally, which began in Hong Kong and will end in Beijing tomorrow, was held to mark the tenth anniversary of Hong Kong's return to the motherland.

CFP Photo

Chinese go online for offerings to dead

Beijing (AFP) – Chinese Internet users are turning to "online tombs" as an easier way to pay respects to deceased relatives and others during an annual festival to honor the dead, state media reported on Wednesday.

At least five million people have logged onto websites allowing them to offer the dead everything from simple messages to electronic incense in the run-up to the yearly Tomb Sweeping Festival on Thursday, the *Beijing News* reported.

Chinese turn out in droves for the festival each year to clean the graves and tombs of their ancestors as a sign of respect, leaving behind myriad offerings to comfort them in the afterlife.

Beijing's government is trying to promote the use of websites, typically set up by public cemeteries, to cut down on the traffic jams that coincide with the festival each year, the paper said.

Five million have taken the online route since April 1. Tomb sweeping activities typically begin about two weeks before the actual festival.

Primary school goes hunting for its own Tiger Woods

Beijing (AFP) – A government-run primary school in Beijing has become the first in the country to offer golf classes, a sport often attacked in China for its elitist overtones, state media reported on Thursday.

The Zhongguancun Third School has brought in instructors from a local golf club to teach optional classes for an extra fee of 3,000 yuan (US\$388), the *Beijing Times* reported.

The fees is about one 10th of the average salary of an urban worker in Beijing, based on the latest official income figures.

Separate courses in the classroom on the history and understanding of golf will be mandatory for third-graders next semester, the report said, adding they would not incur extra fees as they would be part of the regular curriculum.

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Since its founding six years ago, 《Beijing Today》 has won praise from many readers for its fashionable and trendy style. The paper provides a window for the world to see and experience China's capital.

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China to be Asia Pacific's largest auto maker

Beijing, April 5 (AFP) – China will overtake Japan to become Asia Pacific's largest auto maker by 2010 with an annual output of 11 million light vehicles, an international research firm said Thursday.

"Japanese production is reducing largely because production is being shifted to the Chinese market," Benjamin Asher, a Beijing-based business manager with JD Power-Automotive

Resources Asia, told AFP.

Japan manufactured 10.8 million light vehicles in 2006, but growth for 2007 is expected to decline 1.7 percent to 10.6 million units and to 10 million by 2010, said a quarterly forecast report released by the company this week.

Light vehicle refers to any motor vehicle, except a bus, trailer or motorcycle, with a gross weight rating of 10,000 pounds

(4,500 kilograms) or less.

Meanwhile, China will continue to grow, despite an anticipated slowdown from the 28.4 percent growth in 2006 on the back of government policies aimed at cooling the economy, the report said.

This year output is expected to increase by 14.3 percent to 7.6 million units, and after that slow further through to 2010 when production will be 11 mil-

lion units, but growth will remain in double digits, it added.

By 2010, the combined output of China and Japan will account for 76 percent of the expected 31.4 million light vehicles manufactured in the Asia Pacific, said the forecast.

India, South Korea and Thailand are the only other countries in the region that manufacture over one million vehicles a year, it added.

ABB to supply for Beijing Olympics

Geneva, April 5 (electricnet.com) – ABB has won a contract from the Beijing Electric Power Corporation for power transformers to strengthen electricity grids in the city and ensure reliable power for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games.

The transformers will be manufactured locally in China at the ABB plant in Chongqing – the largest transformer manufacturing facility in the world.

BigBand Networks wins customers

Beijing, April 5 (Business Wire) – BigBand Networks Inc announced that six Chinese cable operators are deploying the company's broadband multimedia services routes to process and deliver digital video.

The operators are Wuxi Cable TV and Changshu Cable TV in Jiangsu; Jieyang Cable TV and Qingyuan Cable TV in Guangdong; and Hefei Cable TV and Huaibei Cable TV in Anhui.

Air Canada to increase flights

Beijing, April 5 (AP) – Air Canada will open a second daily direct flight between Beijing and Vancouver from July 2 to October 1 this year.

The carrier will also increase the number of flights between Shanghai and Toronto from two to three times a week from April 13 to June 30, and seven times a week from July 1 before returning to three a week in winter.

Panasonic Finance to start operations

Beijing, April 5 (Dow Jones) – Panasonic Finance China Co, part of Japan's Matsushita Group of companies, said it has received Chinese government approval to start operations.

The company is based in Shanghai with 100 million yuan in registered capital. Panasonic has 76 firms located in China.

AB plans new brewery mill

Beijing, April 5 (AFX) – Anheuser-Busch said it will build a US\$63 million brewery in Guangdong as part of its strategy to promote Budweiser and Harbin beer in China.

The facility in Foshan, which is scheduled for completion in 2008, will have a production capacity of 2.6 million hectoliters, with potential for expansion.

Anheuser-Busch acquired Harbin in 2004, and has a 27 percent stake in Tsingtao.

Gezhouba wins Nigerian project

Beijing, April 5 (Dow Jones) – China Gezhouba Group Corp, the main contractor of the Three Gorges Dam Project, was awarded a US\$1.46 billion project to build a hydroelectric power station in Nigeria, Xinhua News Agency reported.

The project is for a 2,600 megawatt hydropower station in the northeastern Mambilla plateau. The construction is expected to last six years and nine months.

Nasdaq to launch China Index

The bell rang Monday in Beijing

By Zhao Hongyi

Nasdaq says it is preparing to release a new China index, or Nasdaq China IndexSM, to report the in-time performance of the listed Chinese companies.

It aims to list more Chinese companies from a wider range of sectors, such as banking and real estate, rather than from the high-tech only.

Nasdaq lists a total of 40 Chinese companies which have a combined market value of as much as US\$40 billion.

The new step was announced only days after the market's opening bell rang in Beijing.

Nasdaq President and CEO Bob Greifeld and Ambassador Randt, the longest serving US ambassador to China, rang the Nasdaq opening bell remotely from the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Beijing, Tuesday this week.

At the same time, Liu Biwei, Chinese consul general in New York, co-hosted a reception from the Nasdaq MarketSite in Times Square, where the live opening bell from China was aired.

Nasdaq is the first-ever US exchange to open its market from China. Its opening bell is a ceremonial event that represents the Nasdaq's virtual market model.

As a result, it can be opened from any location, bringing together investors and market participants from around the world to mark the beginning of the trading day.

Also on Tuesday, Nasdaq appointed Guangxun Xu as its new chief representative in China, based in Shanghai.

The appointment was made after Lawrence Pan withdrew from the position of co-chief.

Xu said his task is to attract more Chinese enterprises to be listed on Nasdaq. Nasdaq expects to change its image from attracting hi-tech companies to a wider financing platform for companies from telecommunications, insurance, banking, auto, iron and steel sectors.

Farewell to Vladivostok



A Chinese vendor presents a lamp to his Russian client in the free market in Vladivostok, April 4.

The ban on retailing business by foreigners

issued by the Russian federal government which took effect April 1 has forced half of the 200,000 Chinese business people back home.

IC Photo

Cartier sues local business for brand infringement

By Zhao Hongyi

Cartier, renowned French jeweler and watchmaker, is suing a local wedding service company in Beijing for using its brand and demands 50,000-yuan compensation. The case is being heard in the city's first court.

Cartier claimed in its indictment that Dingyimlove wedding service and its Cartier wedding photo companies have been using a similarly designed brand and the same Chinese translation illegally for years, which infringes on

Cartier's legal rights and benefits.

The Cartier brand earned international fame for its garment, leather, glass, jewelry and watch fashion products. Its brand was registered in China in April 2003, and under Chinese law the company should have sole use and benefit of the brand.

The two wedding service companies are one company with two types of wedding services introduced from Taiwan. The companies have already opened dozens of outlets in many cities through-

out the country.

Du Wanglong, a representative from the defendant companies, said in the court this week that they believe Cartier is the name of a famous French photographer who is held in high regard, and selected his name and its Chinese translation, which is coincidentally the same as the plaintiff's brand.

"Our business is very successful on its own," Du said to reporters outside the court after the first hearing, "Do you think we need to use their brand?"

China to buy US\$12.5 bln US goods

Beijing, April 4 (AP) – China has drafted a plan to buy US\$12.5 billion worth of US goods, in an effort to ease tensions ahead of a high-level meeting on trade disputes.

The purchases would be made in May, Dow Jones Newswires said, citing an unidentified person familiar with the plan.

Under the proposed plan,

China would buy US\$10 billion worth of mechanical and electronic goods, US\$2 billion worth of soybeans and US\$500 million worth of cotton.

Last year, China announced deals to buy US\$16.2 billion worth of Boeing jetliners, soybeans and other US goods in an apparent effort to ease trade ten-

sions before President Hu Jintao visited the United States.

Soybeans are the single biggest US farm export to China, which has sent about 11 million tons worth US\$2 billion since the current market cycle began in September, Laney said. The beans are crushed for oil and used as animal feed.

No more money for coverage

China's press watchdog issued a circular Tuesday banning reporters in the provinces from taking kickbacks or extorting money in return for favorable coverage.

"Local newspaper branches and their staff reporters are not allowed to engage in extortion by threatening to expose inside stories," a circular issued by the General Administration of Press and Publications (GAPP) said.

It also banned paid news, forced subscriptions and forced advertising for complimentary reports.

Local media branches should lose no time in carrying out the overhaul, dismissing unqualified press personnel and applying for journalists certificates for those who are qualified but do not have a certificate yet, the GAPP said.

Local GAPP departments have been told to revoke the licenses of media branches that violate the ban or ignore the press watchdog's overhaul orders.

GAPP also said government officials cannot be hired as part-time reporters, and that all reporters must carry a "journalist certificate" issued by GAPP. The circular said GAPP will revoke reporters' certificates if they violate any of the rules.

The circular comes after a series of cases in which local newspaper reporters extorted money in exchange for not reporting bad news or accidents.

In January, Lan Chengzhang, an employee of the Shanxi office of the Beijing-based *China Trade News*, was beaten to death during his investigation of an unlicensed coal mine in the northern province by eight thugs hired by the mine's owner.

Last May, four newspaper staff reporters previously working for local branches of the Beijing-based *China Food Quality Newspaper* and three other newspapers were arrested for extortion.

(Source: Xinhua News Agency)



Lan Chengzhang's five-year-old daughter holds her father's portrait with her innocent eyes at the funeral. Lan was beaten to death during an investigation of an illegal, privately owned coal mine. The mine owner defended himself in court by saying that Lan did not have an official press card, and had blackmailed him for 1,000 yuan during the interview.

Photo provided by Yweekend.com

Comment

In addition to no plagiarism and disclosing the truth, one essential ethic journalists should always follow is refusing gifts or money from sources they cover.

Most major news organizations do allow their writers to accept free admission to events for the purpose of writing a feature or review, but most of those organizations bar their writers from "junkets," where groups provide free travel and hotel rooms.

— A local journalist

Journalism is a divine profession, which must not be tarnished by cynicism and greed. Stricter qualifications should be imposed to ensure journalists are both professionally and ethically qualified.

— A media professor

It is high time to purify the journalistic profession in China, as paid news is prevalent in some parts of the country.

— Ronney

I think this is very important. In Western nations, the news and journalists are controlled by corporations and companies.

By law, Western nations have free press. In reality, the "free press" has been bought and controlled by corporations and companies. Western media is really corporate brainwashing.

— GoChina

Greedy or poor? I don't think journalists in China can't survive without getting "extra income." It's because they are greedy.

— Watchdog

The seamy side is no wonder. A vast majority of state enterprises or industries lack a watchdog that can oversee their operation. The government has released many documents that sit stacked somewhere, but it is extremely hard to implement the rules effectively in our work and life.

— Screener

Hey, I don't think it is morally bankrupt. It is money hungry.

— Reader

Morality first, and wealth comes second. Didn't Deng (Xiaoping) say, "let some people get rich first." Now some people have already got rich. Still, there are more people who want to get rich whether or not they do it morally. It's sad if journalists accept money this way.

— CLB

Lan's death is only one of the severe dark sides of the media industry's lack of oversight. Who should be blamed for this matter, the cold murderers or the system of oversight?

We need an effective system and laws and a legitimate body to put all the laws into implementation rather than talk about things in a symbolic meeting.

— happytom

(By Huang Daoheng)



A farmer's wife shows reporters the official regulation, complaining the new rule has increased her family's burden.

CNS Photo

No marriage without a middle school diploma

By Huang Daoheng

Planning to get married? Well, you need to hunt through that dusty wardrobe for your junior middle school diploma first.

News came from Pinghe County, Fujian, last week that a junior high school diploma is required for county residents to apply for work permits, driver's licenses or even marriage certificates.

According to the circular issued by the government, the aim is to cut down on dropout rates during the region's nine years of compulsory education.

An official from the Pinghe government surnamed "Ye" was quoted by the local media as saying that the notice has only been revealed to the government and schools, but hasn't taken effect yet.

"We intended to make more people aware of how difficult things may be in the future with-

out a diploma," Ye said.

However, some parents have been asked by the school to pay 650 yuan for children who suspend studying in a local school to gain a diploma.

The phenomena first came to attention when the mother of a child who had dropped out to find work in Guangzhou complained that demanding 650-yuan payment was too much.

"The teacher said my son can't get a marriage certificate or driving license without the diploma, so I paid 650 yuan," Huang said. "I regret it now, because the sum is more than my monthly salary."

A teacher surnamed "Chen" said they would arrange for students to study in a vocational school to get a diploma after receiving the money, because more than half of the students had quit studying.

Comment

The government's action was representative of a local government strategy to push problems off onto its constituents rather than addressing the core issues of poverty, the paying for diplomas and an education system that doesn't serve students who are not preparing for further education.

— The Beijing News

I don't understand the purpose of the county authorities. If they are promoting compulsory education, it's a reflection of their compassion, but read between the lines: undoubtedly they are money reapers.

— tony qi

These few years there has been abundant news about prejudice, and many people have pointed to "systemic problems behind many prejudices."

We all admit the great error in thinking "good people always have good children, and thieves always have thieving children," but there hasn't been a study that demonstrates that the children of PhDs will be PhDs (or at least MAs).

We try as hard as possible to use the scientific method to explain our scorn for another group of people. The Pinghe memo is just this logic taken to an extreme.

— TJD

Nothing is unheard of in this boundless universe. In the

past week, I've noticed commentators have used it for the Andy Lau suicide, twice for this middle school diploma story. It also appears frequently in sensational tabloid-style stories.

— Cheers

I think this is something only an educator will really understand. As a teacher of graduate students at a first-tier university in China, I can vouch for the lack of foresight and clear thinking that many students possess. There needs to be a real revolution in education.

— Sean

Writers commended the government for supporting compulsory education, but expressed heavy reservations about this particular tactic.

A piece posted on a legal website noted that the country's Marriage Law did not allow for such restrictions to be placed on people's freedom to wed.

— Abc

Everything in this world serves its purpose. Just because we all like to embrace independent thinking at US colleges and Stanford's entrepreneurship doesn't mean that it is the model for China.

You will still have to get used to the China model if you want to stay.

— Sergey

(Source: Chinadaily.com and Danwei.com)

Henry Kissinger speaks on cooperation and peace

By Huang Daohen

"Our future depends on (Sino-US) cooperation, and that's why I am so committed to friendship between our two countries," Henry Kissinger, former US secretary of state, told as many as 1,000 scholars and students this Tuesday at the Graduate School of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

Kissinger, invited back to China this time by China Sciences and Humanities Forum (CSHF) president Zheng Bijian, gave a special speech on his experiences with the Sino-US relationship. Addressing the CSHF in a keynote speech, Kissinger said the US and China should cooperate to face world challenges.

Recalling Zhou Enlai

Kissinger began his 45-minute speech by recalling his first visit to China and his dialogue with former premier Zhou Enlai.

"The first time I met Zhou, I told him I was in a mysterious country," Kissinger said. "But Zhou replied that no one here – surrounded by 900 million others – felt it was the least mysterious ... Since then, I've learned a lot about China and have witnessed sweeping and unexpected change," he said.

During his speech, Kissinger, who made his first visit in 1971 in a secret trip that broke a 20-year

freeze in relations, couldn't help but share his amazement at how China has changed. "China has developed in a manner none of us could have imagined 35 years ago," he said.

Kissinger lauded Sino-US cooperation in the six-party talks, and expressed his confidence in the ability of the two countries to improve bilateral relations.

China's rise inevitable

Many students in the audience were eager to know what Kissinger thought about China's rise. "When friends and colleagues in the States talk about the rise of China and the problems it presents to us, I say the rise is inevitable," he said.

"Throughout history, when one country becomes stronger, the former super-power feels uneasy," he said, "But China's rise is inevitable. There's nothing that can prevent it, and there's no reason to oppose it. America needs to cooperate with the world's most populous country."

Kissinger extolled cooperation. Only by cooperation, he said, can all countries, the US and China included, deal with bilateral relations.

The next US president

Kissinger was asked to forecast the next election, but said it is hard to say with 15 months to



Henry Kissinger spoke in China with a message of cooperation.

Photo by Tony Wei

go and 30 candidates competing for the election.

For example, the former secretary said, if the war in Iraq ends peacefully before negotiations, a Republican candidate may have improved chances, and if not, the Democratic candidate will.

"The premise is whether or not they can show the American people they are responsible," Kissinger said.

Thai Princess presents first overseas photo exhibit

By Huang Daohen

For the travel, arts and photography obsessed, Thai Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn is presenting her private photos for the first time outside of Thailand during her China visit. The week-long exhibit, jointly presented with the CCTV Anchor Rita Zhao, opened at the Capital Museum this Tuesday.

The exhibit features a collection of 100 photographs taken by the Princess during her extensive travels throughout China in the past 25 years since her first visit in 1981, along with 100 photographs displaying Zhao's artwork, which captures scenic Thailand.

These two sets of photographs showcase the landscape, culture and peoples of the two countries. "I take photos on each of my trips with a simple automatic camera. I have no special skills in photography," Sirindhorn said, "I just believe pressing the shutter is enough to record my memories."

"The photos I've taken are meant not to convey information about China," the Princess said, "But to capture my delight in their compositional elements I learned in art lessons, such as line, color, light and shadow. I



The Princess' photos capture China through Thai eyes.

Photo by Tian Yufeng

believe the photos can narrate stories of China from a perspective others seldom get to experience."

The Princess arrived in Beijing on Monday afternoon for her 12-day visit. Aside from Beijing, Sirindhorn will also visit Qinghai, Hubei and Zhejiang provinces, the Tibetan Autonomous Region and China's economic hub Shanghai.

This is Sirindhorn's 24th visit to China. She started to study Chinese 25 years ago and has introduced China to Thailand, and through her articles and books. The Chinese government awarded her for her unique contributions to Chinese literature and friendship

between China and Thailand.

The 52-year-old princess, in a country where the royal family rarely communicates directly with the public, launched the country's first royal blog last October. She said the blog is aimed at persuading fellow Thais to embrace English. The blog appears on the British Council's website.

"In this past century, English has become a global language," she wrote. "We can't say we really know the extent of its influence, but we can be sure of one thing: English can be used as a key to better understanding."

Top circus seeks Chinese faces

By Gan Tian

Three Chinese dancers have been invited to join world touring shows of Canada-based Cirque Du Soleil next month. The circus, one of the most famous in the world, came to China last week to recruit Chinese actors and dancers.

More than 100 dancers from Beijing, Shanghai, Guangxi and other provinces tried out, but only a quarter made it to the finals. There are only three vacancies for dancers for the new show in Macau next month.

Line Giasson, casting director of the company's International Headquarters said "After the finals, we still have to do some evaluation, and then we'll add their names to our bank of potential candidates. When there is a need, a new show or a someone to replace in the current lineup, we will present them to the artists and directors who will custom-design a routine for them."

"The artists need to bring something different to the public and have been something new

that will grab public attention," Giasson said, "This is the first time we've looked for dancers in China. They are very skilled, but their biggest challenge is to be creative and try new things."

A man surnamed "Li," who refused to give his name after failing to be recruited last Saturday, said, "Foreigners always think Chinese dancers can only do folk dances. I did a folk dance in the first round and they were unimpressed. I did a modern dance in the second. I wanted to give them a new image of us – we can do modern dance too. I think that's what they are looking for."

The circus is planning to focus on dance in the future, and they decided to recruit Asian faces. "The best part of our success is that we have different people – different cultures from all over the world. Now we work a lot in Europe and South America. In Asia, we're still quite new," Giasson said.

The actors will sign a two-year contract with the circus if they are chosen. They will go with the company to tour the world.



Only three Chinese dancers could join the world tour after a very strict selection.

Photo by Brook Wang

Vice president visits, shares EU experience with China

By Han Manman

Günter Verheugen, vice president of the European Commission and commissioner for enterprise and industry, held a news conference Tuesday to give an overview of his Sunday to Wednesday Beijing visit.

He made the visit to share the EU's experience with China and deepen EU-China economic relations, he said. This January, both sides agreed to launch negotiations on the establishment of a new Partnership and Coopera-

tion Agreement.

There were three objectives for his first visit, he said: "First, I wanted to strengthen and improve the communication between the EU and China on topics important for both sides. We agreed in January to negotiate a partnership and cooperation agreement. To further the negotiation progress, we need to agree on what is at stake," he said.

The second objective, Verheugen said, is to discuss critical industrial issues, including how

to establish a level playing field between the EU and China, and to share Europe's experiences in the regulatory field and technical side of construction. "China's urbanization will affect about 400 million people during the next 15 years, which is close to the entire EU population. The challenges are huge, and we have much to share to help China," he said.

Third on the agenda was ensuring efficient market surveillance, he said. "Consumer safety and protection of intel-

lectual property rights are often linked," Verheugen said. "We must ensure that well known brand names and trademarks are not put at risk by counterfeit, even dangerous products. We have already established true cooperation with the Chinese authorities, but there is room for improvement," he said.

During his four-day visit, Verheugen met with high-ranking Chinese political and government leaders and discussed energy efficiency and climate change.

Spain's VP introduces cultural year

By Gan Tian

The Year of Spain in China kicks off tonight in the Forbidden City Concert Hall with a performance of "Exciting Spain." Maria Teresa Fernandez de la Vega, the first woman vice-president of Spain and minister of the Presidency, and Spanish Ambassador Carlos Blasco Villa will introduce the year's activity in the opening ceremony.

Teresa Fernandez arrived in Shanghai on Monday, and flew to Beijing on Wednesday. She had been talking to the Tang Jiaxuan, state councilor, yesterday and will meet Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao and Sun Jiazheng, minister of culture.

In the opening ceremony tonight, Teresa Fernandez and Sun will introduce the year's plans. Tutunak will perform on a Txalaparta, a special Basque musical instrument. Later, D'3 will show Jorge Pardo, Francis Posé and José Vázquez.

"Other activities won't be revealed until tonight," "Anna," the press officer of Spanish Embassy, said, "But one thing for sure is that Spanish Year certainly will reveal the country through activities, including exhibitions, concerts and cultural lectures."

The Year began in January as a series of exhibitions in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou, an embassy spokesman said. In May, Gaudi's architecture will be exhibited, and from June to November, the Prado Museum will share a bit of its collection.

The year's music activities will start with music lectures, and most importantly, the Shanghai Art Festival, which Spain is working on. The Spanish play, *The Empire*, will be performed for a Chinese audience for the first time in May in Dashanzi. Beijing's branch of the Institute Cervantes will also host a Spanish movie week. Spain will also host Shanghai International Movie Festival.

For literature, many famous Spanish poets and writers will come to Beijing to lecture in April. Officials also hope the year can advance China and Spain's cooperation on environmental protection, astronomy, technology and tourism.

EU establishes consultation service in China

By Han Manman

The European Healthcare Trade Association (COCIR), the European Union and the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China (European Chamber) announced the opening of a dedicated COCIR China desk in Beijing to support the development of a transparent, predictable regulatory framework for medical devices in China, Monday.

The desk, a healthcare system hosted by the European Chamber and managed by Business Manager Maurizio Andreano, will allow COCIR to enhance dialogue and cooperation with Chinese authorities.

China is a special area of interest for COCIR. "China's ambition to develop a healthcare system that can match the tremendous growth of its economy is a major challenge for the medical industry. We believe COCIR can bring solutions and share its expertise and experience from Europe and other regions," Nicole Denjoy, COCIR secretary general, said.

Ian Kay, European Chamber secretary general, said he was delighted to cooperate with such a strong organization, which supports the healthcare industry in Europe as part of the European Chamber.

COCIR has been the voice of the healthcare and medical IT industry in the European Union since 1959, and is working to continue developing healthcare in Europe and beyond.

Based in Brussels, it represents the interests and activities of its members, global companies and small to medium enterprises, and national trade associations. It also acts as a channel for communication between its members and European institutions and global regulatory bodies.

Ugandan ambassador learns from the students



Charles Wagidoso learned how to kick a shuttlecock from students.

Photo provided by Nanyuan Middle School

By Jackie Zhang

Charles Wagidoso, ambassador of the Embassy of the Republic of Uganda, played a variety of traditional Chinese games with students when he visited Nanyuan Middle School in Fengtai, Monday.

Under the students' instruction, Wagidoso learned to play diabolo, *tuitiehuan*, a game where you push an iron hoop, kick shuttlecock, and other games like jump rope.

"I liked the games, especially diabolo and *tuitiehuan*," Magidoso said, Wednesday.

"The ambassador was very happy when he was playing with the students. He tried a lot of tradi-

tional Chinese games," an embassy worker surnamed "Zhang" said, "But I think diabolo may have been a little too difficult for him."

Teachers from the middle school were impressed by Wagidoso's visit. "I was surprised to see the ambassador jumping rope with the students. He's a pretty lively guy," Zhang Jianhu, principal of the school, said.

The ambassador's visit was part of the Organizing Committee for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad's Heart-to-Heart Partnership Program, which paired the embassy with Nanyuan Middle School. Heart-to-Heart program partners

Beijing's primary and secondary schools with national Olympic committees around the world.

"Wagidoso said he would help our school connect with two schools in Uganda," Zhang Jianhu said.

"It was a learning visit, and also established a linkage, cooperation and exchange between Nanyuan and schools in Uganda," Wagidoso said.

Wagidoso said he was highly impressed by the orderliness and organization of the school.

"We are going to connect Nanyuan Middle School with Nabumali High School in eastern Uganda," he said.

Embassy tournament honors Hungarian football legend

By Huang Daohen

Red Ball Club is known to the local *laowai* community as one of the city's top European football complexes. This past Sunday, the club's football tournament was more than just a good time: it was a tribute to recently deceased Hungarian football legend, Puskás Ferenc.

The five-a-side tournament, named in honor of Puskás, was organized by the Embassy of the Republic of Hungary and Red Ball Club with other embassies in Beijing throughout March.

The tournament was one of Beijing's largest ever Embassy events, with over 150 embassy staff members gathering for five Saturdays to play and have fun.

Eight finalists went to play

last Sunday afternoon at the Red Ball Club for the Puskas Cup. The final was between the Italian embassy and Germany embassy teams. After a half-hour of furious competition, the Italian embassy team won 3 to 1.

Aside from commemorating Puskás, the tournament brought Beijing's embassy community closer. "The tournament provided an excellent platform for the diplomats to meet up and understand each other better," Pietro Laghezza, a player from the Italian embassy team, said.

The Hungarian ambassador to China, Mészáros Sándor, awarded the champion team. The Puskas Cup will be officially presented to the winner by the Foreign Minister of Hungary on April 17 at Hungar-



The Italian embassy team won the Puskás Cup, beating the German embassy 3 to 1 last Sunday at the Red Ball Club.

ian embassy.

Eighteen teams participated in the event, including the Hungarian, USA, Canadian, Swedish, Italian, Russian, Bulgarian, British, German, Iranian,

Egyptian and Romanian embassies, plus teams from the People's Liberation Army.

Photo provided by Hungarian Embassy

Prevention a better way to deal with trafficking

By He Jianwei

China reported 2,500 cases of trafficking in women and children last year, and the issues of trafficking are closely associated with the wider issue of migration, an official from a British NGO said in Wednesday's lecture at the Italian Culture Center.

Kate Wedgwood, China and DPRK country director for Save the Children, lectured on "Trafficking and China's Most Vulnerable Children" at an event organized by the Foreign Correspondents Club in China.

China is a source, transit point and destination of human trafficking. Thousands of children and young people continue to fall victim to trafficking. The increase in rural-urban migration of people includes large numbers of children and young people, putting them at high risk of trafficking and other forms of abuse.

Wedgwood believes the government and communities need to develop multi-sector responses to curb the growth of the trafficking industry. While national policy and legal reform may take time, appropriate local level policy to protect children can be more easily.



Staff from Save the Children interviewed children in Yuxi, Yunnan in 2005.

Photo provided by Save the Children

"We piloted a registration system in a village in Xishuangbanna, Yunnan. It requires all job recruiters who come to the village to register with the local government and all persons planning to migrate to inform the office and participate in classes to prepare them for migration. Village level directives prohibit any young person who has not finished the compulsory education requirement from leaving his or her place of origin," Wedgwood said.

The Regional Women's Feder-

ation commended this model and preparations are underway to replicate it in a number of counties in Guangxi and Yunnan.

In addition to the registration strategy, education is an efficient way to prevent the trafficking. Basic education for rural Chinese children, and particularly those from very poor, ethnic minority areas who are most at risk, needs to provide children with relevant knowledge so that they can be aware of the risks and protect themselves. "It is therefore logical

that the school curriculum needs to include 'safe migration' education," she said.

Their target groups include children vulnerable to trafficking in rural poor communities, street children, migrant children, left behind children, HIV/AIDS affected children, disabled children and victims of trafficking, exploitation and abuse.

Save the Children is the world's leading independent organization fighting for the rights of children.

Laowai starts Beijing T-shirt brand



Johnson-Hill in his T-shirt shop
Photo provided by Johnson-Hill

By Huang Daoheng

A three-yuan subway ticket, the logo of the famed Yanjing beer, laowai favorite *gongbaojiding*, and even the illegal street stickers for reselling old drugs – nothing is safe from Dominic Johnson-Hill, a Briton and self-proclaimed "creative dictator" who has lived in Beijing for 13 years.

Johnson-Hill has plastered the city's daily symbols on T-shirts, and created the city's first T-shirt brand, "Plastered."

"I'm too proud to say I have created a T-shirt brand for the city," Johnson-Hill said, "I just

want to express the feeling of a foreigner's experience and what he has seen in Beijing."

The store, located at Nanluoguxiang, Dongcheng, is Johnson-Hill's little kingdom for creation. In the ten square meter room, there is an exciting range of T-shirts for men, women and children, exploring the diversity and latent beauty of everyday life in Beijing. "Every design incorporates potent graphics that are prevalent across the capital," he said.

"Cities like London and New York, they all have their own T-shirts with the theme of urban

brand," Johnson-Hill said, when asked about his original idea for the business, "However, I have not found any in Beijing." He decided to be a trailblazer, and set up "Plastered" T-shirt store last year.

The T-shirts' creative reflection on the city has been accepted by the public and business is going well. Johnson-Hill now has a plan for a branch in the 798 Art District in the near future. "Foreign customers now account for about 60 percent of my business. They are particularly fond of the shirts and regard them as a special gift from the city," Johnson-Hill said.

Spanish professor debates Gaudi's architecture

By Gan Tian

To help Beijing citizens understand Antonio Gaudi's architecture and in preparation for a May exhibition in the capital, Professor Jorge Wagensberg from Physics Department of University of Barcelona gave a lecture, "When Nature Copies Gaudi", at the Beijing Institute of Cervantes on Monday evening.

As the director of the Spanish Science Museum, Wagensberg is a scientist with sharp artistic sense. In the lecture, he provided a multi-disciplinary analysis. "In Gaudi's works, you can find many geometric shapes. For example, you cannot

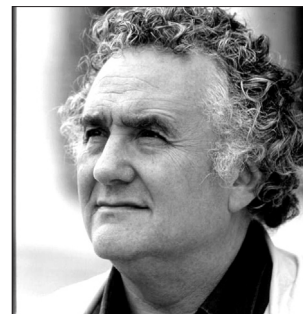
see straight lines in his architecture. He avoided straight lines like a plague. You cannot find them in nature, either. Moreover, the shapes in Gaudi's works share the same functions they do in nature," Wagensberg said.

Wagensberg conveyed the idea that the greatest charm of science is that it, like art, can be understood without intuition, and that this commonality made for rich connections between the two ancient ways of knowledge. Wagensberg used this duality to discuss the scientific views of the artists like Picasso, Gaudi, and Dali, and to explain how

his museum uses the arts.

Beijing citizens, including scientists, artists and language learners, attended the lecture. "I am so surprised that we can see Gaudi's architecture in a scientific way," Wu Wei, a student from the Central Academy of Fine Arts, said.

There were also some disagreements during the lecture. A man in the lecture raised his hand to oppose the professor, "Gaudi was a great artist, not a scientist. His works came out spontaneously from his mind." In response, Wagensberg said that he only provided a way to explain Gaudi's



Jorge Wagensberg speaks on Gaudi on Monday
Photo provided by Cervantes

architecture, not a strict rule for viewing it.

Events

China's New Nationalism

Many observers in the past few years have talked about the emergence of a new nationalism in China, often noting numerous fearful implications. These reports are only increasing in frequency, but is there really evidence that nationalism is on the rise in China today? What in fact is "nationalism" in regards to China?

The talk and discussion will be led by Patrick Lucas, a long-time resident, researcher and teacher in China.

Where: Chinese Culture Club, Kent Center, No 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm-9pm, April 11
Tel: 6432 9341

China's Environmental Challenges and Options

Ma Jun will offer an analysis of China's current environmental challenges, particularly in light of stated plans to quadruple the economy in the 20 years between 2000 and 2020. Ma Jun, recognized as a Green China Man of the Year (December 2006), worked for the *South China Morning Post* from 1993 to 2001, during which he published a book on China's water crisis.

Where: The U.S. Embassy Residence, No 17 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm, April 12

What can we learn from nomads?

Astrid Cerny is a human and environmental geographer who spent several years studying Kazak nomads in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. This presentation will feature unique photos and original maps of migration routes.

Where: China Environment and Sustainable Development Reference and Research Center, No 1 Yu Hui Nan Lu, Chaoyang

When: 2-4pm, April 10

Tel: 8463 6353

Green Drinks

Green Drinks is an opportunity to meet up with like-minded individuals who are interested in the environment, sustainable development, corporate social responsibility and social and environmental justice issues.

Where: Stone Boat Cafe, Inside Ritan Park, southwest corner, on the fishing pond, Ritan Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7pm-9pm, April 10

Punk legends NOFX coming to Beijing in April

NOFX, one of the great punk bands of the last two decades, has announced their upcoming tour to Asia including a show in Beijing on April 13th at The Star Live. The show will be presented by Rock For China Entertainment Ltd, who also organizes the annual Beijing Pop Festival.

Where: The Star Live, 79 Heping Xijie, Dongcheng

When: 20:00pm, April 13th

Cost: 150rmb (in advance)

Tel: 6593 0367

(By He Jianwei)

Are you interested in sharing your stories in Beijing?

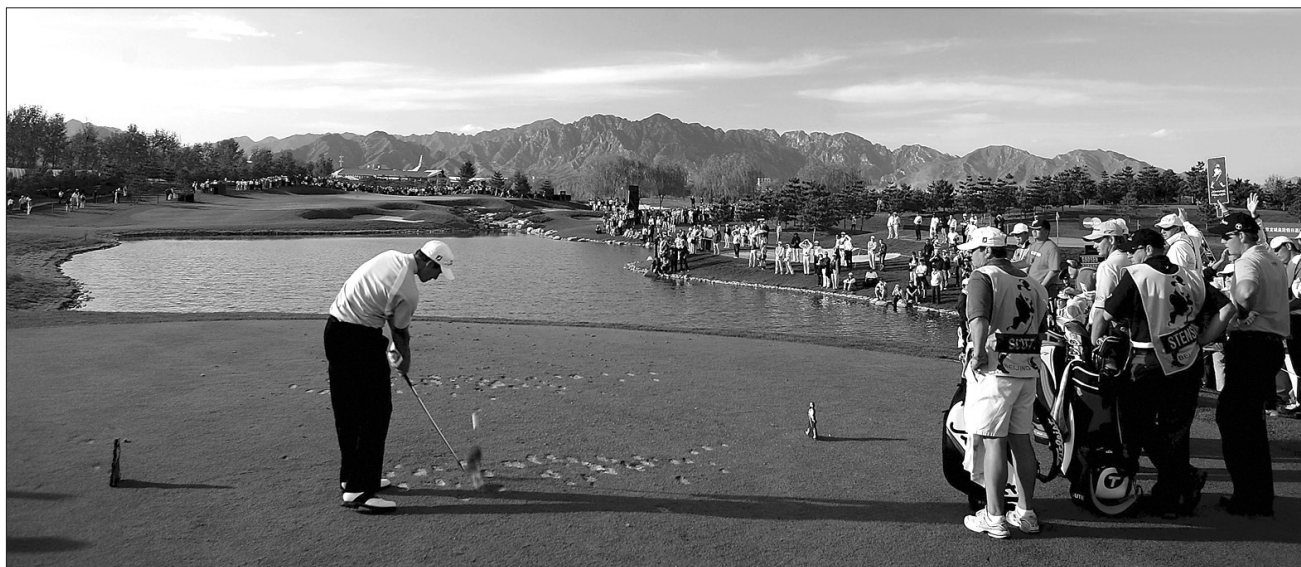
Beijing Today's Community page focus on stories happening in different expat communities, as well as providing information on all kinds of practical solutions to bring convenience to your daily life.

We are looking for freelance writers to contribute, and we wel-

come you to share with our readers and us what you see, know and care about in town. If you have a good story to tell, or if you have any questions, just let us know!

Feel free to write to weijing@ynet.com or bjtoday@ynet.com

Where to play golf in Beijing



Adam Scott of Australia tees off in the final round of the Johnnie Walker Classic at the Pine Valley Golf Resort and Country Club in 2005, Beijing.

CFP Photo

By Gan Tian

Time spring always means active and passionate athleticism. Golf, as one of the most bourgeois sports, is winning fans in Beijing.

The city has been seeing this trend since the 1980s, and nowadays, most golf courses are well equipped and up to international standards.

Beijing Today provides a list of three of the most popular places for foreigners and white-collars to play golf in town.

Beijing Golf Club

As one of the oldest golf clubs in the city, Beijing Golf Club is the most popular. For beginners, there is a driving range and a four-hole practice course with professional instruction. You can also apply for membership, which includes a very high discount and good service. Many Chinese and Japanese restaurants are on or near the premises.

Address: East bank of the Chaobai River, Shunyi

Getting there: Go along the road at the toll booth from the airport expressway, turn right at the airport waiting building, take a right turn at the gas station, go along Shunping Road,

turn right at the first traffic light and left at the next, turn left after you have passed the bridge.

Cost: Playing fee: 800 yuan on weekdays, 1200 on weekends and holidays; additional charges: 120 yuan for 9 more holes; 200 yuan for 18 more

Lessons: 300 yuan per hour; 400 yuan on 9 holes; 600 yuan on 18 holes

Tel: 8947 0245

Beijing Grand Canal Club

This golf course combines nature scenery and superb landscaping. Peter Deng, the well-known Hong Kong golfer, designed this international standard 18-hole golf course. Gazing into the distance, the course offers boundless green grass with a cool and congenial breeze. Both indoor and outdoor tennis courts and swimming pools, a fishing pond and boating equipment are provided here.

Address: Huzhuang, Tongzhou District

Getting there: Taking the Jingtong and Jinha Highway for thirty minutes to Huzhuang. The club is located at the junction of the Grand Canal and the Chaobai River.

Cost: 300-500 yuan per hour

Lessons with coach: 300-400 yuan per hour for beginners, 400-600 yuan per hour for higher level players

Tel: 8958 3058

Glory Island Golf Club

This club is downtown, which makes it extremely expensive. Located nearby Chaoyang Bei Lu, it is conveniently reachable from CBD, Lufthansa International Business District, Lido International Business District, the Embassy District and the Yaojiayuan Road high-end residential development zone at Dongba. If you are a crazy golf fan and want to enjoy it every day, choose this club.

Address: 252 Caijing Lu, Chaoyang Bei Lu, Chaoyang

Getting there: drive out to the Fifth Ring Road, turn north at the first crossroad and drive for 100 meters, then turn east for a kilometer.

Cost: 400 yuan per hour on weekdays, 500 yuan per hour on weekends and holidays

Lessons with coach: for one to three beginners 300-500 yuan per person per hour, four to six people are 400 yuan each per hour, seven to eight are 500 yuan each per hour

Tel: 6577 7288

Other courses

Jiawei Golf Course

Where: No 150, Laiguangying Xin Bei Lu, inside Chaoyang Football Training Center, Chaoyang
Tel: 8491 7966

Gaoran Golf Course

Where: No 1, Laiguangying Xin Bei Lu, Dachao Huiguan, Chaoyang
Tel: 8491 7848, 8491 7901

Coutryside Golf Club

Where: Kuliushu Huandao, Mapo, Shunyi
Tel: 6940 1111

Beijing International Golf Club

Where: North side of Shisanlin, Changpin
Tel: 6076 2288

Beiyan Golf Club

Where: Gujiazhuang, Laiguangying Xi Lu, Chaoyang
Tel: 8491 8058

Olympic Golf Course

Where: west side of Olympic Center, Yayuncun, Chaoyang
Tel: 6491 4265

Exchange used newspaper for flower seeds



The distributor offers five different flower seeds for you to choose from. Photo provided by Beijing Youth Daily

By Annie Wei

It's nothing new that many people in town are looking to plant something on their balconies or in their gardens in spring. However, visits to flower markets can end with empty hands and confusion: which plant is maintained most easily? Am I being overcharged?

Now you can start something green without paying a cent. This week the *Beijing Youth Daily* and the Beijing Xiaohongmao Distribution Company are giving free flower seeds to used newspaper recyclers.

No matter what kind of used newspaper you keep in your store room, call 6775 6666 ext 1, and the Xiaohongmao Distribution Company will send their staff over to collect them and bring you free flower seeds. The receptionist said that the activity was open to locals and expats, as long as you and your newspa-

pers are in Beijing.

After the announcement, more than 300 people called in and around one ton of used newspaper was recycled on the first day.

There are five kinds of flower seeds to exchange for: Moss Rose (*Portulaca grandiflora*), Red string (*Salvia splendens*), Petunia (*Petunia hybrida*), African Marigold (*Tafetes erecta* Linn) and Nasturtium (*Tropaeolum majus*).

Li Guangwang, director of Beijing Jiaoyu Zhiwuyuan (Beijing Gardening Education) said these five kinds of flowers are easy to grow in Beijing.

"Before sowing the seeds, water the soil first, and then cover the seeds with dry soil, and then cover them with a thin plastic film, to keep the temperature of the soil. Within three to seven days, you will see the sprouts," Li said.

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to: weiyi@ynet.com

One of my friends is looking for various types of dishes, cups and glasses. She does not want to get them from Ikea, because it seems everyone in town has the same Ikea cups or glasses. Can you recommend some places that she can find more patterns and varieties?

Try Yaxiu fourth floor. Another popular place is the second floor of the Liangma (landmark) Flower market. It's opposite to Sunflower town, along east Third Ring Road. Some stores in Nvrenjie or Laitai flower market also have different stuff from Ikea as well.

I have been in Beijing for two months sleeping on my friend's sofa. I have been looking for my own apartment in places like Guomao, Gongti and Chaoyang Park. Which place is the most convenient for an expat like me?

These three areas all belong to Chaoyang district. The Gongti and Chaoyang park areas are very convenient, with many restaurants, bars and cafes. Guomao is booming with new apartments, with large group of foreigners living near Shuangjing Qiao. It also has many western and Chinese restaurants as well. Guomao area has the worse traffic, especially during the rush hours.

I see many slimming tea products in the local drug stores, are they safe?

Beijing Today cannot recommend any safe slimming tea products to you, but many reports say that drinking one or two cups of Oolong tea and Pu'er tea a day can help to slim down.

I heard there is a very big place for electronics shopping. Do you know where it is and how to get a good deal?

Zhongguancun (North-east of third ring road) is considered the biggest place for all electronic products. The buildings around Carrefour (Zhongguancun) all sell the same things. Before you buy something, check the recommended price online. Then you can compare the price to what you will hear from stores in Zhongguancun. Some stores might charge too much at the beginning. Just go ahead to practice your bargain skills!

My two brothers (13 and 16 years old) are visiting me soon in summer. I think they will like the computer gaming thing in the local internet bars. I live in Dongzhimen but seldom see any internet bars. Do you know of any in the area?

There is an internet bar at Chunxiu Lu, a bit east of Dongzhimen, near a red-colored hotel, and one at Xiangheyuan Lu, near Sanyuanqiao.

(By Wei Ying)



JUE-Aw

Conversations between mother and daughter dance and the pre and post Cultural Revolution

Talks with Mother

Luo Lili was born in 1947 and has been working as a dancer in a Guizhou singing and dancing group since 1976. She studied at Beijing Dance Academy from 1987 to 1989, and majored in Chinese literature and dance directing.

Beijing Today (BT): How would you describe traditional and modern dance?

Luo: They both have their own beauty, like different kinds of flowers. I like modern dance, but I think it lacks inner culture. Sometimes, it has no theme, and seems meaningless.

BT: What does *Jue-Aware* mean for you?

Luo: It could be my rebirth. I couldn't stop dancing from then on, and it also gave me new inspiration for my next dancing drama.

BT: Guizhou is your hometown and Beijing is where you pursued your dancing dream. How did you choose to live between the two places?

Luo: I chose to go back to Guizhou when I finished my study at Beijing Dance Academy because I was devoted to rural people. It is Guizhou's people and water that brought me up and I should pay them back. Sometimes, I can't find inspiration in Beijing, but Guizhou's hard life makes me think.

By Chen Shasha

How could we describe the relationship between a mother and a daughter? They share their thoughts, their meals, and even their wardrobes. What if they belonged to two very distinct generations: one that grew up before the cultural revolution and one born after; what if they had two different languages of dance, the strict, traditional discipline and the striving for freedom of modern dance, and two cultures, mutually determined and yet contradictory?

The question of mother and daughter, tradition and modernity, though asked over and over again, is now placed at the very heart of a performance by Beijing Modern Dance Company's choreographer Gao Yanjinzi and her mother, renowned folk dancer Luo Lili. The two – mother and daughter – have the same beautiful waist-length black hair and the same utter devotion to dance, and will show us their awareness, worries and love on the stage, through a conversation between modern and traditional dance.

Their duet, named "*Jue-Aware*," was performed at the Berlin Arts Festival in 2004, and received critical acclaim at festivals throughout Europe. This Friday and Saturday, it will open the curtain on the "2007 Year of Modern Dance" in Beijing, in its first public performance in China.

Jue-Aware

In "*Jue-Aware*," Gao Yanjinzi and Luo Lili present six scenes exploring their own personal stances on how tradition develops into modernity, and how modernity flows back into tradition.

The first part, "I" describes a spirit's journey from her mother's womb. The second part, "Mom," explores pregnancy and the fetus. In the third part, "We," the relationship between mom and daughter is compared to a conversation, with the daughter an extension of her mother.

In the fourth part, the daughter copies her mother, thus becoming a woman. In the fifth part, the daughter grows up, however, she still misses her mother. Although the mother still lives, she feels as if she's disappeared. The girl doesn't know where to look forward to freedom, but doesn't know where "freedom" is, and where it will take her.

The intensifying emotional content of the performance. "It is a charge," Jinzi said.

In the sixth scene, mom leaves, and the daughter, in a conversation between tradition and modernization now in a new life, which could be another extension of her mother's sense, of hers.

The music for *Jue-Aware* was composed by the Chinese composer, singer, writer and pianist, who is a "prince" of China's new music scene. His album, entitled "Blues in the East," was on the top ten for weeks.

Back stage stories

Jinzi and her mother "quarreled" over the performance, debated throughout rehearsal. Luo Lili was a long time; her only job had been to take care of her son. She cooked and washed clothes.

Reviews of Jue-Aware from abroad

Lili is the traditional Chinese female dancer – coquettish, beautiful, on a pedestal. Her daughter winced, crouched, and crawled, fetus-like, at her feet. Her movement – sometimes staccato, sometimes serpentine and acrobatic – was always raw, bared and modern, in a European sense, churning an energy that

showed her fury and sadness.

– **Dance Magazine, October 2006**
Dixon Gottschild

In a figurative sense, the two dancers suggest that both traditional and modern dance are constantly fed beneath the recipient.



Performing

1. April 6 and 7, "*Jue-Aware*"
2. April 28 and 29, "*Yao-Yi*", 1
3. May 4 and 5, BMDC will perform

More information, please contact

ware

ughter, traditional and modern evolution generations

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and caring grandmother. But in her heart, she still held a
dream of getting back onstage.

She couldn't forget the first day when she entered the the-
ater of the Beijing Modern Dance Group and found her body
out of her control. "It's like losing your lover, who you thought
would never abandon you, but one day he left," Luo said. At
the same time, Jinzi couldn't believe it, and even blamed her
mother – a talented dancer in her mind – for becoming a
housewife. "I felt sad because all I did before was to help her
and her family," Luo said.

Luo climbed stairs instead of taking lifts to practice every-
day. "The first day, I fell on my knees the moment I opened
the door of Jinzi's home on 21st floor," Luo said.

But the hardest part for Luo was following Jinzi's ideas
on modern dance. As a traditional dancer, she asked that
every gesture has a certain meaning, and that the dance
has clear dramatic structure. "It's so hard for me to per-
suade her, because she is also a dance director," Jinzi
said. According to Luo, their two dance languages were
so different that even their ways of breathing didn't
blend.

Jue-Aware was thus born out of the combination
of very different notions of dance. The final part of
the dance was adjusted over seven times. "Each
time when we came back home, we felt excited
and thought it couldn't be better; but the next
day when we woke up, we found it ter-
rible and needed new creations," Jinzi
said. Fortunately, the two finally found
a language to communicate between

the fruit of perpetual cre-
ativity and contradiction.

– **The House of
World Culture maga-
zine, Berlin, 2004**



Photos by Tian Yufeng, Zhang Heping and Zhang Changcheng

ist of 2007 Year of Modern Dance

performed by Gao Yanjinzi and Luo Lili, 7:30pm at the TNT 9 Theatres, Chaoyang Culture Center, Tel: 8599 6011.

performed by Chao Ke and Tao Ye, two talented dancers from BMDC at the above-mentioned venue.

perform with Kelemenis group from France at the above-mentioned venue.

contact BMDC at 6601 6107.

Talks with Daughter

Gao Yanjinzi was
born in 1976 and
graduated with a BA
degree from Beijing
Dance Academy. Since
1995 she has been a
dancer and choreogra-
pher with the Beijing
Modern Dance
Company. She has
performed and
presented her chore-
ography nationally
and internationally and
won numerous prizes.

**BT: How would you
describe traditional and
modern dance?**

Jinzi: Traditional dance
always considered the audi-
ence's needs. But modern
dance originated from per-
sonal feeling. I think it
is one's personality that
leads her to traditional or
modern dance. Someone could
be group-minded, tender and
adherent, and they could easily
choose traditional dance. But in
my case, I started to challenge
my mom even at four years
old, and I couldn't follow her
"correct gestures" and always
searched for variation. My view
of dancing always collided with
others', even now.

**BT: What does *Jue-
Aware* mean for you?**

Jinzi: A mother-daughter
relationship could change as
the latter grows up to 16 years
old. For me, my mom was
also my dance teacher, so she
always tended to control me
when I was a small girl. But
to prepare for *Jue-Aware*, I
helped her to practice and after
several quarrels, she began
to accept my modern dance
ideas. It was meaningful for
both of us.

**BT: Guizhou is your
hometown and Beijing is
where you pursued your
dancing dream. How did
you choose to live from the
two places?**

Jinzi: Guizhou gives me
natural inspiration, but
Beijing is an international
stage to fulfill myself. It could
be easy to relax in Guizhou,
but it is like compromise.

The Uninvited

By Han Manman

For the release of her first English-language book, *The Uninvited* (288pp, Faber & Faber, 150 yuan, available at the Beijing Bookworm), author Yan Geling visited Beijing and accepted an interview with *Beijing Today*.

The Uninvited tells the fantastic tale of Dan Dong, an unemployed factory worker whose life takes a series of unexpected twists after he discovers that, by posing as a journalist, he can eat exquisite gourmet meals for free at state-sponsored banquets.

The secrets Dan overhears at these events eventually lead him down a twisted, intrigue-laden path, where his subterfuge and real identity become harder and harder to separate. When he becomes privy to a scandal that runs from the depths of society to its highest rungs, Dan must find a way to uncover the corruption without revealing the dangerous truth about himself.

Yan said her novel was inspired by the popular Chinese TV show, "Jiao Dian Fang Tan," or "Interview on Hot Issues." In 1999, Joan Chen, a Chinese American actress and director and Yan were on a trip to Beijing. "Chen happened to catch an episode of the show where they interviewed a former banquet bug, and she told me about it. She said it could be good material for a

'With help from friends who are journalists or who know journalists, I was able to research the topic.'



comedy," Yan said.

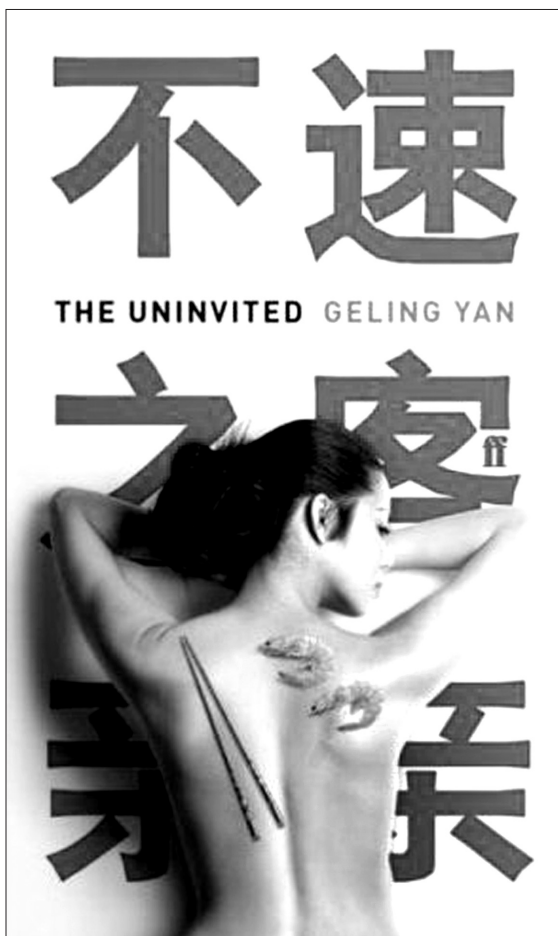
She asked a friend who had contacts at CCTV to get a tape of the show for her. "I had a great time watching the episode. It was both funny and sad," Yan said.

Yan has been a journalist and a novel and short story writer since the late 70s, but *The Uninvited* is her first published work in English. "It's my first novel written directly in English. I feel proud of myself for having completed it," she said.

Writing a novel so close to media life was not an easy task for someone on the outside, but Yan has no shortage of connections. "With help from friends who are journalists or who know journalists, I was able to research the topic," she said. She also went to several press conferences disguised as a journalist and "collected" banquet

dishes by talking to people who had attended many banquets, and who had eaten and heard about outrageous banquet dishes.

It is interesting that there are two different names of the book: *The Uninvited*, in the UK, and *The Banquet Bug*, in the US. "My UK publisher, Faber & Faber, asked me to provide some choices of titles for the book, and I did. They preferred *The Uninvited* over *The Banquet*



Bug, whereas my US publisher, Hyperion, preferred *The Banquet Bug*," Yan said.

"There are two novels I've wanted to write for years. I also have a couple of unfinished novellas that I was forced to drop when working on the movie script for *Lost Daughter of Happiness* (Fusang). I need to go to Japan to research for one of my novels," she said.

Yan said Sanmin Publishing House in Taiwan bought the book's Chinese-language rights, and hired a well-known Taiwanese

writer and playwright to translate it. It will be released in early May.

Born in Shanghai to a writer and an actress, Yan Geling began writing in the late 1970s as a war correspondent covering the Sino-Vietnamese border conflict. Her first novel was published in China in 1985.

In 1989, she left China for the US. Since then, two of her works have been made into films and a collection of her short fiction was translated into English. She has won many awards, both in China and the US.

Marriage is a matter for both families

By Annie Wei

In her new novel, *Xin Jiehun Shidai*, or *Marriage in the New Era* (Writers Publishing House, 25 yuan), Wang Hailing deals with complex issues in modern Chinese marriage. Wang's impassive and accurate description of modern-day marriage has brought great success to both her book and TV show.

Since it first aired as a TV drama during Spring Festival, *Xin Jiehun Shidai* has remained one of the top-ten selling novels in several lists.

In the story, He Jianguo, 24, marries Gu Xiaoxi, a woman from an educated, middle-class family in Beijing. He graduated with a master's degree in IT from Tsinghua University, but his roots lie in a typical rural Shandong upbringing. Though they tie the knot chasing true love, Gu finds married life is more than just passion.

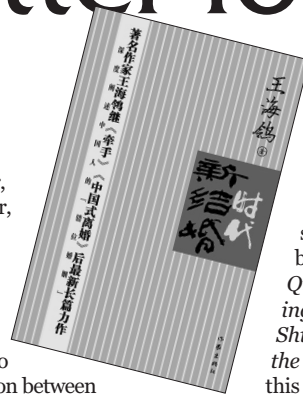
He's family becomes a huge and heavy burden on her, and she and her husband have very divided views on the role of "family." Having grown up in Beijing, Gu believes a family is just her and her husband – for He, family includes his parents, his brother, his sister-in-law, two nephews and hordes of relatives Gu has never heard of.

The couple's marriage is tested by their different lifestyles and expectations.

The book covers another two couples, the first of which is Gu's best friend Jian Jia and younger brother Gu Xiaohang. Jian Jia has a relationship with a rich man for six years, expecting him to divorce and marry her. In the end, she ends up with a broken heart, and Gu Xiaohang there to support her. The two fall in love, but Gu's family doesn't approve because of her past affair with the rich man.

At the same time, Gu's mother, a successful doctor, dies suddenly in the hospital due to overwork. Her father decides to marry the family nanny, Xiao Xia. The connection between Gu's father and Xiao is mainly a practical one: he needs a woman to look after him, and Xiao, a divorced woman from the countryside with a daughter to support, needs shelter. Gu and her brother agree to give up their father's property, as long as Xiao will stay with their father and care for him.

The book illustrates family relationships in urban China with the harsh echoes of social problems: the clashes between rural and urban life, family values, lifestyle choices and being a filial child.



The author, Wang, is famous for Chinese family stories. Her past books, including *Qian Shou*, or *Handing Hands*, *Zhongguo Shi Lihun*, or *Divorce: the Chinese Way*, and this book have all been adapted into TV series.

"I'm happy that with this book, I've explored a new angle in writing about marriage. The stark contrast between urban areas and the countryside give this book a broad background," Wang said.

Wang titled her book *Marriage in the New Era* to reflect how things have changed. In the past, Chinese people in the city had to receive approval from their *danwei*, the work unit, to enter marriage. In this era, there are more choices.

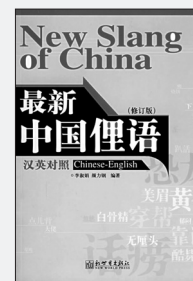
O2SUN Bookstore Recommendations

Li Zhaoyang's Picks

By Annie Wei

Li Zhaoyang is the manager of O2, a popular bookstore near Wudaokou, Haidian, a boom zone for local and expat students. Li recommends three books for *Beijing Today's* readers this week. He said the book on Chinese slang is excellent for expat students.

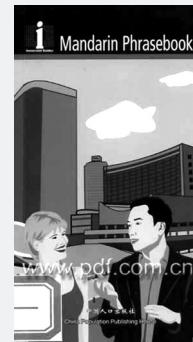
New Slang of China



By Li Shujuan and Yan Ligang, New World Publishing House, 28 yuan

"This is a Chinese to English book for studying Chinese slang. The author collected the 1,400 of the most popular Chinese slang phrases, including those most commonly used, like 'dakuan,' which means 'rich man,' and 'dawan'er,' a master in an industry. It also includes some Chinese slang borrowed from English and other languages, like 'ku,' or 'cool,'" Li said.

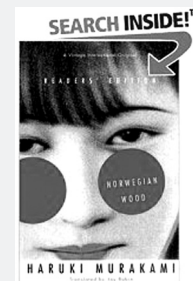
Mandarin Phrasebook



By Churen Dingli, China Population Press, 50 yuan

"This book sells quite well in our store. For expats who are new in town, it's handy for getting through the daily grind in spoken Chinese. It tells you useful words, like the word for 'basil' in Chinese, how to ask your landlord to fix a leaky pipe and what to write if you need to make a 'missing pet' flyer," he said.

Norwegian Wood



By Haruki Murakami, 304pp, Vintage, 126 yuan

"*Norwegian Wood* is a love story written by Japanese author Haruki Murakami. It was his breakthrough novel that propelled him to international fame in 1987. It's hugely popular with both Japanese and Chinese youth, and the English translation should make it more accessible to western readers," Li said.

Beijing pizza parlors hand-make their pies

By Chu Meng

Pizza is a comfort food for the ages: Flat bread made of flour, water and (maybe) a little olive oil has existed in the Mediterranean region for millennia. Yet residents of the Italian peninsula embraced the simple dish and, ultimately, made it their own. Now these delicious, simple saucer-shaped concoctions fly across the world, including to China.

Handmade pizza is a special treat because you control

the ingredients, from what goes into the dough to the cheese sprinkled on top, and your pizza will be lower in fat and sodium than store-bought or fast-food pies, yet every bit as delicious. With just a little practice, you can master preparing the dough and toppings.

In Beijing, we found three top handmade pizzerias. Pay them a visit and learn some secret tips before trying to make pizza in your own kitchen.

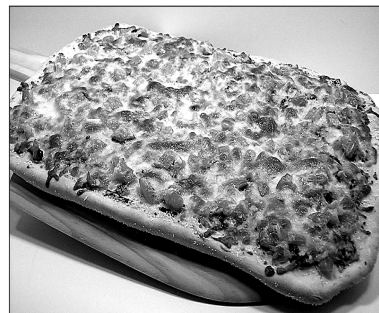
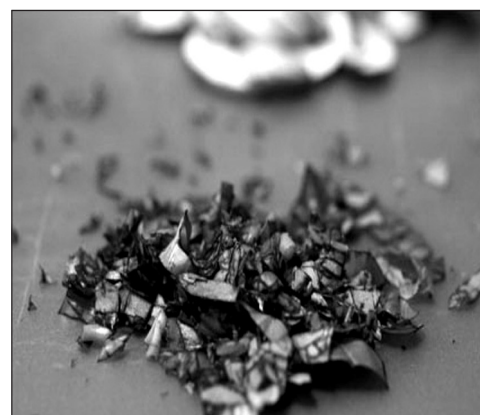
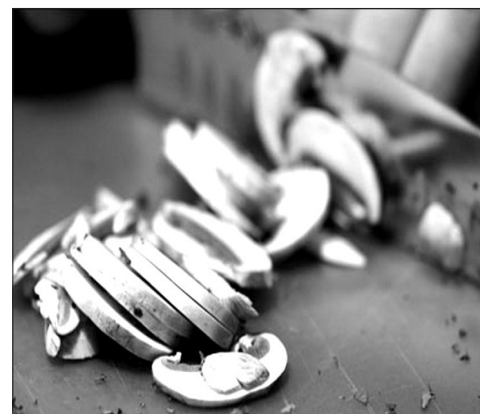


Photo provided by Hutong Pizza

Hutong Pizza

By Chu Meng

Hutong Pizza, located in Houhai, has to be the best handmade pizza in Beijing, and beats anything Pizza Hut has to offer. It's a silly name, but truly great pizza. This hard-to-find pizzeria occupies the site of a former Buddhist nunnery and features untouched murals in the loft.

There is no religious theme to these handmade thin-crust pizzas, but if you have arrived from the wilds of China, you may experience something akin to a spiritual experience. The only jarring touches are the presence of green pepper and black olives on an otherwise sublime three-cheese pizza.

The boss and chief chef of this pizzeria is Italian. His signature pizza is an Italian tomato-based white pizza, which is the most authentic and original one. On a sunny Sunday afternoon he gave me a few tips from his own kitchen.

Sauces start with spices. First, a tomato sauce is lightly herbed with oregano and basil, yet the basic tomato taste is allowed to shine through. Some pizza lovers prefer an even simpler sauce than this, but you will like the colors and bouquet this sauce adds to your own homemade pizza.

In a Dutch oven or large skillet, melt butter with olive oil and slowly but completely sauté the garlic and onion. Add the tomatoes, salt, pepper, oregano, basil and puree. Bring to a boil, then simmer covered for two hours. Stir occasionally, crushing the tomatoes with a potato masher. Continue to mash, stir, and simmer partially covered until the sauce reaches the consistency of a rich soup.

The boss said you could also use these procedures at home. If you find you have too many or too large tomato seeds left in the sauce, you may run the sauce through a strainer. Set the sauce aside to cool before applying it to your pizza dough, or refrigerate it for use in the future.

If you like your thin crust pizza cracker-thin and crispy like I do, then Hutong Pizza is your place.

Hutong Pizza

Where: Yinding Qiao Hutong 9, Houhai bar area, Xicheng (From Yinding Qiao walk west, take a left at the fork, and then a right at the T-junction)

Open: 2pm-midnight

Tel: 6617 5916

Cost: 35 - 109 yuan per pizza

Papa John's Pizza

By Chu Meng

Papa John's Pizza is an American chain-store pizzeria. All its pizzas are guaranteed to taste like the original - probably because they use filtered water and high protein flour to make both their original and thin-crust pizzas. The interior of the place is playfully decorated, and the menu features plenty of finger foods and ice cream sundaes: perfect for channeling western food cravings.

Though it is a chain store, Papa John's is completely different from Pizza Hut. Its signature is a handmade four-season pizza, with four different juicy toppings. Besides, its exotic country-themed pizzas cannot be missed.

The Japanese Ikasumi Squid Ink Pizza, for example, illustrates how regional cuisines and cultural tastes influence the science of pizza topping.

The Japanese have always had a knack for taking an idea and embellishing it to suit their own tastes - pizza is no exception! If you had any doubt that pizza is truly an international food of choice, the Japanese will change your mind. They have adopted and adapted pizza making with a vengeance.

The marvelous Malaysian Paradise Pizza and the Thai Seafood Spicy Tuna Pizza are topped with crabsticks, squid, spicy Thai sauce, mixed herbs and fresh coriander leaves. The Malaysians add a zest to pizza making that reflects their exotic tastes, as well as the indigenous herbs, spices and ingredients in other Malay dishes. Malaysians adore pizza and their pizza eating experiences often dominate their conversations.

Papa John's also recommends the Spanish Tapas Confetti Appetizer Pizza, Chinese Pizza, White Authentic Italian Pizza and California Pizza.

Papa John's Pizza

Where:

Branch one: 1/F Golden Resource Shopping Mall, Yuanda Lu, Xi Sanhuan Lu, Haidian

Tel: 5165 9939

Branch two: No 1 Guanghua Lu, Kerry Centre, Chaoyang

Tel: 5165 9299

Branch three: No 58 Dong Sanhuan Lu, Fu Dun Center A103, Chaoyang

Tel: 5165 9733

Open:

Mon-Fri, 10:30am-10:30pm;

Sat-Sun, 11am-10:30pm

Cost: 100 per person



Photo provided by Papa John's Pizza



Photo provided by The Tree - Beijing

The Tree: Belgian pizza and beer bar

By Chu Meng

Formerly known as the "Hidden Tree" and located in another part of Sanlitun, the centerpiece of this restaurant is the open kitchen where you can see chefs do their thing with rollers, dough, and brick ovens. Once you find this out-of-the-way spot, you may be surprised to see how packed it can get on a weekend and how expansive the interior is. The bar stretches long enough to allow patrons to meander and mingle freely.

They boast a wide selection of imported beers (ask which ones are from Belgium) and an extensive drink menu, but their food menu mainly serves to compliment their Belgian handmade pizzas, which is why you came hungry in the first place.

Thanks to the open kitchen, I could see the way the chef threw the dough into the air, spread the sauce and topped the pie. He put about seven to eight ounces of pizza sauce into the middle of the dough shell, then spread it evenly over the surface. By spooning the sauce out to the edge of the dough sheet, he left an "un-sauced" margin for the crust.

This exposed "margin" of dough around the circumference of the pizza will allow the crust to rise and crisp more quickly than the covered dough; creating the classic, puffed up edge of the pizza. Thus, the sauce, melted cheese and toppings will stay on top of the pizza, rather than spilling over its edge.

From this point on, let your eyes, nose, creativity and taste buds take over. The chef spread toppings like fresh vegetables, certain cheeses and fatty meats, which are higher in moisture and fat content. Those liquids are released quickly during the baking process.

One pizza is small enough for one person and large enough to share, and will cost anywhere from 45 to 75 yuan depending on the amount and kind of toppings.

The Tree - Beijing

Where: No 43 Bei Sanlitun Nan, Chaoyang (100 metres west of Sanlitun North Bar street)

Open: 11am-midnight from Monday to Friday. (Special lunch menu available from 11:30am-2:30pm.)

Tel: 6415 1954

Cost: 50-100 yuan per person

Restaurant

Grilled fish discount



Sichuan-style grilled fish restaurant Zhu Ge Kao Yu (132 Lugu Lu, Shijingshan) will be half price until April 18. For reservations, call 6860 3698.

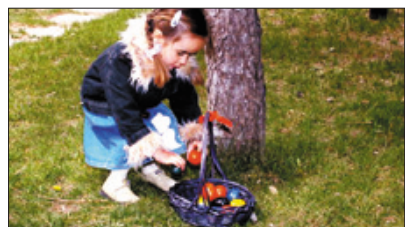
Others

Spa treatment



Special bargains in an English speaking environment at Flora (1704 Building 4 at China Central Place, Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang), mint-oil massage is 140 yuan per person and jurlique facial is 99 yuan. For details: floraspas.cn, 133 9198 1379.

Easter Sunday Issue



Spend a memorable Easter Sunday with our Easter Brunch on April 8. The Easter Bunny will greet you and your little ones, and sea of balloons awaits you at Silk Road Trattoria of The Great Wall Sheraton Hotel. For reservations, call 6590 5888.

Shopping

50 yuan discount



Spend over 200 yuan at Zhong You shopping center (176 Xidan Bei Dajie, Xicheng) and enjoy a 50 yuan discount until April 9. For details, call 6601 8899.

Yuesai discount



Famous cosmetic brand Yuesai will be 24 percent off at Chaowai Shichang (75 Chaoyangmen Wai Shichang Jie, Chaoyang) until April 12. For details, call 6225 3129.

Only discount



Products from women's brand Only will be 30 percent off at Xi Dan shopping center (120 Xidan Bei Dajie, Xicheng) until April 10. For details, call 6656 5800.

Men's wear discount



Clothes from men's brand Seven will be 25 percent off at Jin Yuan Shopping Mall (1 Yuanda Lu, Haidian) until April 10. For details, call 8887 4601.

IPSA gift



Spend over 680 yuan on IPSA products at Modern Plaza (40 Zhongguancun Dajie, Haidian) and get a set of cosmetics including four items free until April 12. For details, call 6257 6688.

Puma discount



Sports brand Puma will be 30-50 percent off at Zhong You shopping mall (176 Xidan Bei Dajie, Xicheng) until April 12. For details, call 6601 8899.

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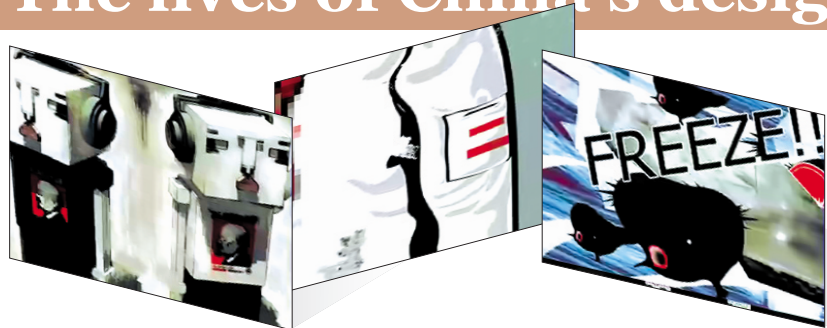
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Scratching beneath the surface

The lives of China's designers



By He Jianwei

Hemingway wrote, "The dignity of the movement of an iceberg is due to only one-eighth of it being above water." His iceberg analogy sums up the lives of modern China's designers.

The new project "Unprosperous and Unbroken" aims to make a panorama of the seven-eighths of designers' lives that are still underwater, and under the radar of mainstream media.

"We want to create a documentary as close to reality as possible. One that reflects Chinese designers' lives, but that is also subordinate to them," Wang Yuwei, one of the organizers of the project, says.

Wang and his group started to formally plan the project in January. They created the website and the official blog to explain their ideas.

This is my life, what about yours?

Chinese designers are faced with a nation that is superficially prosperous, a situation caused by China's rapid development over the last 20 years. Wang sees rethinking this development as a responsibility for artists in the emerging creative industry.

Actually, China's designers are more than the handful of elite names heralded overseas as the creators of "new fashion" and taking in amazing salaries. Thousands of ordinary designers work under the mainstream's radar creating real innovations.

"The power of this troop mainly lies in its ordinary people working in fields related to the creativity industry, on people employed in smaller cities, on countless graduates who devote themselves to the design industry," Wang says.

Compared to other industries, China's contemporary design industry is undefined. It hovers between the commercial world and the artistic, hoping to please both sides – a

rather difficult feat. It's difficult in the modern world to peel away the layers of an issue and actually reach the nature of it. The identity of the designer becomes fuzzier and fuzzier without any standard for what their work is, which has led to its broad meaning today.

"To accurately reflect the situation of contemporary designers in China, we've proposed a plan titled 'Unprosperous and Unbroken.' We hope all designers will participate in the plan and share their experiences," he says.

"We named it this because we see excellent points in Chinese design that are still difficult to define. Chinese design is crawling along through small lurches, even though its idealism and creativity is as alive as ever," he said.

"We don't expect the plan to solve these problem, but we hope it can help us to identify the root of the trouble," he says.

Be your own director

For 2007, the project is focused on young designers. Since the website and blog were launched during Spring Festival, the organizers have gathered many designers' materials in recorded, written and photographic forms.

On March 7, they posted new research on the

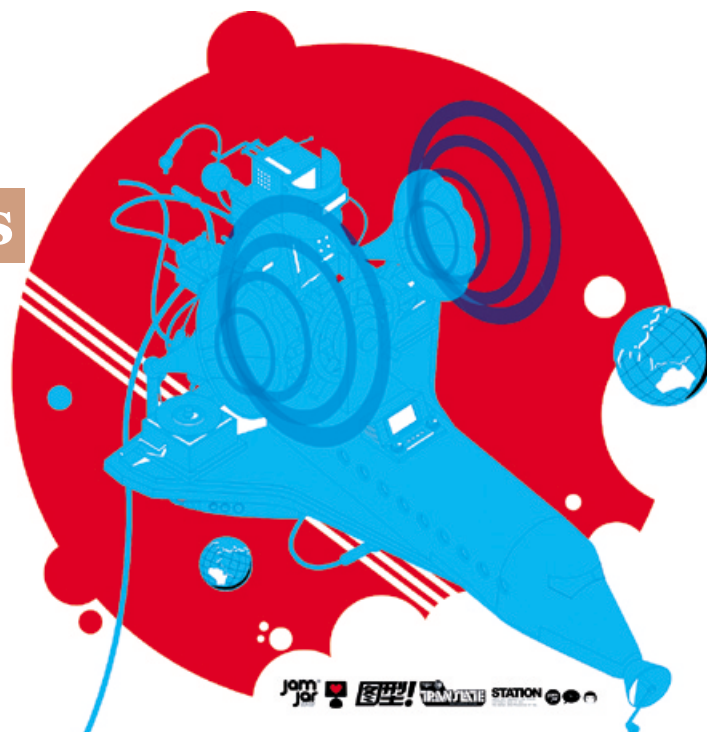
lives of Chinese designers to the blog. Currently, the project has a China volunteer base in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Chengdu and Wuhan, and overseas volunteers in New Zealand and Australia.

The deadline for submitting materials is in June. "Although we don't receive many videos, designers both from home and abroad have registered for the project over the Internet," he says.

"We must tell people what our lives are like, what we need and what we are doing," he says.

"We've interviewed some designers working in different fields. Some of the designers don't have an easy life, but they are still optimistic," he says.

The project includes a documentary to show the living conditions of young Chinese designers, their privately and publicly published works and their personal photography.



Wang Yuwei's graphic design

How to join the project

Submit a video that answers the following interview questions. There is no time limit.

1. State your age, occupation, position, focus, work, income, lifestyle and motivations.
2. Tell what you consider a designer, and whether or not you consider yourself one.
3. State why you are or are not satisfied with your current situation.
4. Tell what the people around you, for example, family and friends, think of you.
5. Describe your ideal life. Make sure to say how you hope to live in the future, and what your goals are.

Do not modify the material you shoot. Cutting, mixing, altering colors, or adding captions and music is not allowed.

Form: CD, DVD, DV tape

Deadline: June 15, 2007

Address: Room 704, Building 7, Huimin Garden, Tonghui Homeland, Chaoyang 100025

Tel: 6557 5063, 8749 1341 or 8352 7066

Fax: 6557 5063

E-mail: china_upnub@yahoo.com.cn

Web: upnub.com



Slices from a video made by the organizers

Photos provided by Wang Yuwei

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65035707

By Gan Tian

I'm so lucky I wasn't born a girl: they will do absolutely anything if they think it will make them even a little bit more beautiful. They even obsess over their nails.

If I hadn't done this shopping page, I would never have known how many products they have to satiate their nail-beautifying obsession.

Beautifying your nails



Step One: Caring for your nails

Calcium nail polish

Nails are like hair: if you want them to be more beautiful, you have to risk damaging them. Well girls, maybe you should swap that bottle of L'Oreal for this calcium nail polish. Normal polishes do a lot of damage to the nail and absorb its calcium. This polish can actually help to strengthen the nail!

Available: New Girl's Shop, No 216, Andingmen Nei Dajie, Dongcheng

Price: 1-2 yuan (small bottle; one week's worth)

CFP Photo

Step Two: Colors and texture



Disney's Tink! Party favor kit

This isn't another plug, I'm just too much of a hardcore Disney fan to pass up adding this to my collection! With this kit, you can put Winnie, Mickey or other characters on your nails forever! The little pictures are really small, but extremely detailed!

Available: buycostumes.com

Price: US\$4.49



Diamond nail sticker

The store owner nearly started crying when she brought these out. "These are the worst-sellers in our shop! They're expensive, and they look OK when they are like this, but after you stick them to your nails, it will make them shiny like diamonds," she says. Is it true? I want to find out! Try it, try it!

Available: New Girl's Shop, No 216, Andingmen Nei Dajie, Dongcheng

Price: 7-8 yuan

Step Three: Decorate your nails



Nail flower maker

Despite being called a "Nail flower maker," this product makes no promises about putting beautiful flowers on your nail. It's a special liquid that you squeeze out carefully. If you are skilled, you can shape it into flowers. Otherwise, you'll just have a glob of crap on your nails. Trying to decorate your nails like a cake ... this was the first time I realized being a girl is so difficult!

Available: F/2, Wudaokou Clothing Market, Xueyuan Lu, Haidian

Price: 4 yuan



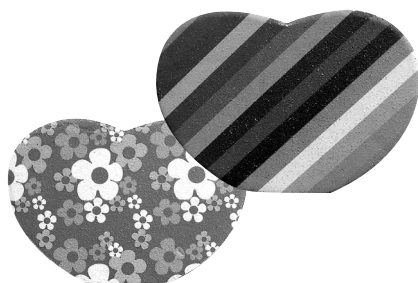
Shining petals nail polish

Again, this has nothing to do with flowers. With this, you can tack thousands of petals to your nails to make them appear golden, silver or chocolate! I wonder what magic makes them stay together?

Available: New Girl's Shop, No 216, Andingmen Nei Dajie, Dongcheng

Price: 6-7 yuan

Step Four: Final care



Nail file

There are more apple products than the iPod, like these cheap nail files. With them, you can take off any extra skin and make your nails extra smooth. Don't hesitate to eat them after you're done caring for your nails.

Available: F/5, Huawei Shopping Center, No 130, Xidan Bei Dajie, Xidan, Xicheng

Price: 4 yuan

Nail polish rinse

If you're not careful, nail polish can end up burning the skin alongside your nails. Don't worry, with this rinse you can remove it. How finicky! You want to be a beautiful girl but aren't prepared to suffer for it? You can't always have your cake and eat it too!

Available: New Girl's Shop, No 216, Andingmen Nei Dajie, Dongcheng

Price: 4-5 yuan



Step Five: Doing it all at once

Glamorous Girl nail package

This "package" contains everything. It looks like a delicious meal with an appetizer, main course and dessert! Inside are nail decorations, an emery board and nail polish – even three coconut bath pearls are included! For the lazy girl who doesn't want to suffer shopping, it's a good choice.

Available: partiesinthebag.co.uk

Price: £ 1.99



Photos by Gan Tian

Surviving pollen season this spring

By Huang Daohen

Spring's arrival brings fragrant, blooming trees, green grass, singing birds, and for many, an unwanted visitor: pollen. Millions of people suffer sneezing and itching due to mild to severe pollen allergies. This week, *Beijing Today* has some methods for coping with pollen allergies that don't involve hiding inside a sealed, air-conditioned box.

Pollen allergy

Each spring, tiny particles called pollen are released into the air by trees, weeds and grass. Beijing's pollen count, according to the Beijing Meteorological Bureau, hit 1,500 micrograms per cubic meter this Monday, the highest so far this season.

"Although we usually don't notice pollen floating in the air, we inhale more than two tablespoons of it per day, which can trigger a pollen allergy in some people," Yang Zhijie, a clinical therapist from the Second Division of Peking University Third Hospital, said. Pollen is one of the most common allergens, Yang said.

Allergies can be caused by just about any substance you inhale. Your body's immune system is designed to attack harmful substances, like bacteria and viruses. With allergies, your immune system attacks substances that are basically harmless – like pollen.

People of any age can develop allergies. Heredity and allergen exposure are important influences in whether allergies develop, Yang said. Moving from one part of the country to another can influence the severity and seasonality of allergy symptoms, especially when the climates and native plants are different.

Symptoms

Pollen allergy manifests itself in many common symptoms. Sneezing, watery eyes and itchy skins are the most frequent, but severe cases can include nausea, diarrhea, rhinitis, cough, headaches and even fainting. Allergies can aggravate or trigger other conditions, such as asthma, sinusitis and ear infections.

However, Yang said, signs and symptoms of pollen allergy vary from patient to patient. "Only your doctor can provide an adequate diagnosis of any signs or symptoms, and whether they are indeed brought on by pollen," Yang said.

Western therapy

While there is no way to accurately forecast this season's pollen count, Isadora Stehlin, an allergy specialist at the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (ACAAI), said there are several cures that may relieve the sneezing, wheezing and itchy eyes.

No matter what the season brings, Stehlin said she encourages people with a pollen allergy to take control of their condition through avoidance – reducing exposure to pollens.

If avoiding the pollen doesn't provide enough relief, consider medicine. An allergist or immunologist will often prefer to offer relief and a plan to control pollen allergy symptoms. There are treatments that range from pills and nasal inhalants to shots that trick your immune system into accepting the pollen.

Antihistamines are one of the most common allergy medications, Stehlin said. Taking oral decongestants, and using inhalers and eye drops may control and treat symptoms. "Nonprescription antihistamines are generally short acting, and often cause drowsiness," Stehlin said.

"Prescription medications are most effective if you take them before symptoms start," she said. If you've been skin-tested and know what you're allergic to, you should think about taking your medication earlier than usual.

Some people may want to consider allergy shots, known as immunotherapy. Over time, as the shots increase, the patient becomes less allergic as the body's tolerance increases. However, Stehlin said allergy shots don't work for everyone.

Chinese herbs and acupuncture

In China, acupuncture and herbal remedies have been used to combat symptoms similar to allergies for centuries. Early studies show that Chinese herbal medicine can treat eczema, while acupuncture has proved effective in relieving a number of allergic symptoms.

"Acupuncture plus Chinese herbal formulas may offer relief from seasonal allergies," Yang Guohua, a professor at the China Academy of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), said.

A recent study published in *Allergy*, Yang said, concluded that a combination of Chinese herbs and weekly acupuncture sessions may be more effective than medicine at relieving symptoms of seasonal allergy.

In the study, a total of 52 patients ages 20 to 58, all diagnosed with seasonal allergies, were randomly assigned to a TCM group. In the group, patients received a standardized 20-minute acupuncture treatment once a week for six weeks, with a focus on the gallbladder, lung and liver meridians.

Along with acupuncture, TCM patients received a basic herbal formula of chrysanthemum, cassia seed, plantago seed and tribulus, which they were instructed to boil and drink three times per day.

The acupuncture-herb combination appeared to be well tolerated by patients, Yang said. In addition, the acupuncture-herb therapy used in the trial lasted only six weeks; the longer it is used the better the outcome will be, Yang said.

Tips to decrease your exposure to pollen

Yang offers the following tips for decreasing your exposure to allergens. They may not eliminate the discomfort of allergies, but can help make allergies less disruptive to your daily life.

1. Do a thorough spring-cleaning. Windows, bookshelves and air conditioning vents may collect pollen and prompt an allergy attack.

2. Avoid outdoor activities during the peak pollen hours: 10 am and 4 pm. It may be easier to be outdoors after a light rain.

3. Keep the windows and outside doors closed as much as possible during pollen season.

4. Wash your sheets in hot water every week.

5. Setting your air conditioner to recycle the air in your room is enough to filter out pollen.

6. Shower and wash your hair before bed – pollen can collect on your hair and skin.

7. Keep pets that spend time outdoors out of the bedroom. Pollen can cling to their fur after being outside.

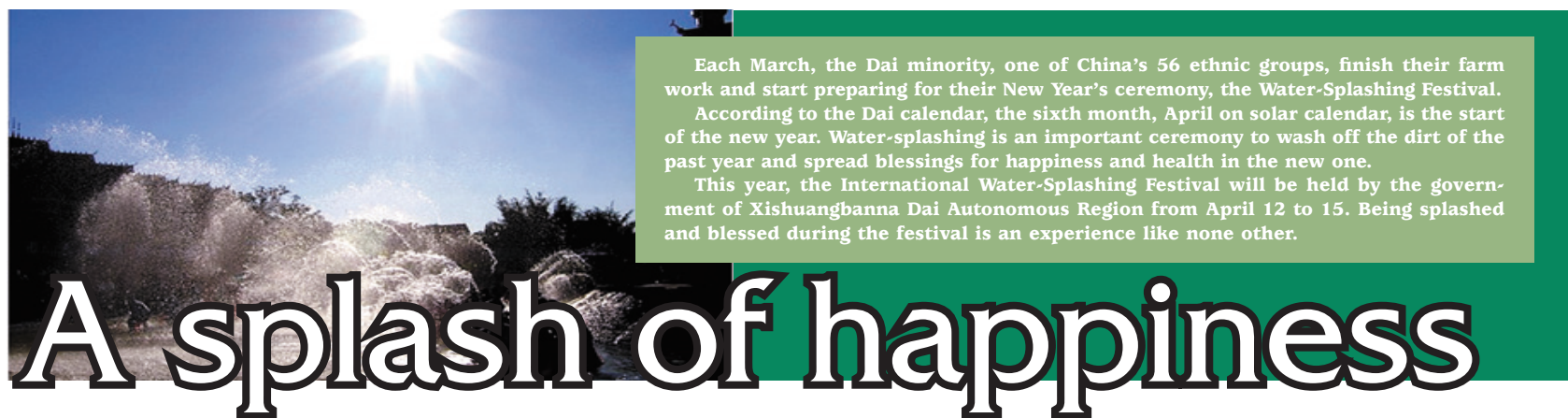
8. When mowing the lawn or gardening, wear a filter mask that can filter pollen.

When to see an allergy or immunology specialist

Patients should see an allergist or immunologist if they:

- Have prolonged or severe allergy symptoms
- Have another condition, like asthma.
- Have symptoms interfering with their quality of life or ability to function.
- Have found medications to be ineffective, or have had bad reactions.

CFP Photo



A splash of happiness

New Year's with the Dai

April 13

Fanggaosheng

Fanggaosheng is an important event for the Dai people when celebrating their New Year. Gaosheng is a kind of firework made from bamboo and powder. The Dai people fill the bottom of the bamboo with powder and other materials and put it on the bamboo Gaosheng shelf. People usually fire Gaosheng at night. If sealed properly, the detonation of the powder will make a huge explosion, launching the bamboo into the sky like a rocket with white smoke before exploding.

The higher the Gaosheng flies, the happier the people feel. People hope the Gaosheng will carry away the diseases and disasters from the earth and bring a good harvest and safety.

Duisha (sand-piling) competition

Duisha is a traditional Dai activity with its roots in a legend about a widow asking for sons by piling sands and shaping them into children. Not long after, the widow gave birth to three sons who were talented and smart. The three boys went on to fight with cruel and filthy people when they grew up.

The Dai people celebrate Duisha wishing for happiness as they pile sands. They regard the competition as a way of communicating with others and strengthening friendships. If you go to see the Dai Water-Splashing Festival, don't miss the Duisha competition. You can bless your family and friends, and also receive well-wishes from the Dai people.

April 14

Ganbai

Ganbai is the biggest and busiest event during the Water-Splashing Festival. In cities, towns and villages, there are various size fairs where Dai people go to buy and sell goods.

Each year in the middle of April, you can see Dai people everywhere near the villages and the river banks. Young people gather together, singing, dancing, and selling goods. You can taste tradi-



Dai people in colorful garments splash water during their festival, which is also the New Year's Day of the Dai minority.

CFP Photos

tional Dai food as well, or even sit down watching people firing Gaosheng.

April 15

Water-Splashing ceremony

At the climax of the festival, everyone is dressed in beautiful clothes and prepares for blessing and receiving wishes from others. Don't be shy – just splash water on everyone no matter whether you know them or not. Don't worry about your clothes being ruined either, the

more wet you are, the more blessing you've received from others.

Today is the Water-Splashing Festival and the main reason we came to Xishuangbanna. My wife and I got up early in the morning and bought a basin, filling it with water. As soon as we stepped out of the house, someone hit us with a barrel full of water. My wife and I defend ourselves by throwing water back. We were totally soaked even before arriving downtown for the festival.

We lost count of how many people splashed us with water and how many people we splashed. It was the coolest day I ever spent. At the grand plaza, government officials were paraded about on litters. Everyone tossed water at them from their basins. My wife joined in and splashed each official.

— yushan blog

I got off the train in Jinghong, Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Region, on the day of the Water-Splashing Festival. Coming out of the railway station, I saw crowds of people gathering in front of different hotels and restaurants, splashing water with small bowls and basins. The festival was still nowhere near its climax.

When I arrived at the cultural plaza, I was soaked by water hurled from every direction. I had no idea what had happened.

It was interesting and exciting to run through the street of splashing water. I could see some water splashed through windows; some off the tops of buildings; some tossed by people along the street; some splashed from barrels and basins; some shot by toy squirt guns. Some people were even lining up to splash water. Old and young, adults and children, everyone was happy.

— wangq1

(By Jackie Zhang)

What to eat

Purple rice in pineapple

Purple rice is a typical Dai sticky food. The rice is marinated in water for seven to eight hours, and then stirred with pork stuffing. A pineapple is cut and stripped of its meat, then stuffed with the purple rice and braised. The rice soaks in the pineapple flavor.

Sour bamboo shoots with chicken

Sour bamboo shoots always have a place on the Dai dinner table. The shoots are first cleaned and then boiled. When the bamboo shoot is done, put the chicken in the soup and boiled. Next, the bamboo shoots and chicken are fried together with peppers, ginger and shallots.

Fried lichen

The dish is made of dried lichen slices drawn from the river. The lichen are boiled with ginger and salt and dried in sunshine, then cut and fried in hot oil. Fried lichen taste like seafood and is popular among the Dai people.

Where to stay

Jinghong Hotel (two star)

Address: No 16, Galan Zhong Lu, Jinghong

Tel: 0691-212 3166

Xinmin Hotel (three star)

Address: No 2, Jingde Dong Lu, Jinghong

Tel: 0691-2126888

Daiyuan Hotel (four star)

Address: No 8, Nonglin Nan Lu, Jinghong

Tel: 0691-212 3888

Getting to Xishuangbanna

Xishuangbanna Airport is in the southern part of Jinghong. It takes about 45 minutes by air from Kunming, Yunnan, to Xishuangbanna. Direct flights to Kunming for transfer are available.

Bus transportation is available from various places to Jinghong, Yunnan. You can telephone the bus station for more information.

Jinghong bus station:

0691-212 3171, 212 3570

Xishuangbanna bus station:

0691-212 4427





Cactus bloom

Colca Canyon valley of wonders

To the north of Arequipa is the higher course of the Colca river valley whose deep canyon is renowned among rafters. The section before the canyon is a valley that runs from east to west, beginning in the cold *puna* and running down to warmer regions, showing its great scenic beauty.

The canyon

Not quite as famous as the Grand Canyon of the US in Arizona, or the Copper Canyon of northern Mexico, Colca Canyon, in southern Peru, high in the Andes, runs for 100 kilometers at an average of 3,400 meters deep.

Unlike most of the Grand Canyon, portions of the Colca canyon are habitable, with pre-Colombian terraced fields, and still support agriculture and human life.

North of Arequipa, the erosion from the Colca River has created a canyon 70 kilometers long and 3,000 meters deep – the deepest in the world.

Beautiful landscapes with strong winds propel the soaring Andean condors, the biggest birds in the world.

Andean condors

No matter what else you do, one of the highlights of Colca Canyon is a stop at Cruz del Condor, the pass where condors soar gracefully on the rising thermals as the air warms. They hunt in the morning or late afternoon, and watching them is an unforgettable experience. There are no railings, and the floor of the canyon is 1200 meters below the viewing area, so watch your step.

Because the valley is so deep, the rising winds are strong. The big condors take advantage of them to soar easily in the sky.

Between Maca and Cabanaconde, where the winds are even stronger, is Cruz del Condor, an observation point that is perfect for watching the condors as they fly majestically.

"What brings increasingly more visitors each year, in addition to the awesome sights, is an



Native Indian woman

opportunity for a close meeting with the South American king of the skies, the Andean condor. The condor population of South America is unfortunately dwindling, but here in Colca Canyon, visitors can see them at fairly close range as they float on the rising thermals

and scan for carrion far below them.

Cruz del Condor itself is a lookout point with a good view into the canyon. February is not the best time of the year to see condors, but we were lucky: After only a couple of minutes, one of the mighty birds – its wing span reaches up to 3.5 meters – circled a few times over our heads. I know this is like a mantra in my travel reports, but I strongly recommend bringing good binoculars. Of course, everybody concentrated on trying to get



Natives have a light pace of life.

Photo by Michael Sheridan

some photos of the bird, but there is no sense trying that unless you carry a reflex camera with a lens of at least 300mm. If you don't have one, it's better to focus on enjoying what you see. Besides condors, we also saw eagles, and later and in other places, a humming bird and two storks."

*– Volker Umpfenbach's Trav-
elogue from Colca Canyon,
at volker.umpfenbach.de*

Side spots



Dawn near the village of Yanque in the Colca Canyon

Besides the Canyon, Colca's unique towns are another attraction. There are almost 20 towns along the valley where people have preserved ethnic tradition more than anywhere else in the country.

Founded by the Spaniards in 1570 as settlements for the native people, each has managed to maintain its original appearance in spite of the years. Evidence of the height of Spanish influence are seen in the imposing Renaissance and Baroque style churches raised in each town. Traditional clothing is still worn by the



Andean condors

Hiking the Colca Canyon

"Sleepily, we set off at 3 am in the pitch black. I was knackered after 15 minutes! How could I complete this hike in three hours? Well, I gave up wondering – I just concentrated on surviving the next half hour. I was the last in our group. By 4:30 am, it was starting to lighten a little.

Slowly, the canyon started to wake up as well. It was surreal and incredibly beautiful to see the colors change. This was the other 'face' of the canyon. First, a sky full of stars set in pitch black darkness, and then, some gray shades discerning the distant layers of mountains. Finally, we got orange. Yep, we got orange! I finally managed to reach the top by 6:10 am. What an amazing sense of satisfaction!"

*– Trisha, Colca Canyon, Peru,
stories at Travelpost.com*

majority of women, and the legends recounted by its inhabitants and the festivals marking agricultural cycles with song and dance offer a time capsule of Colca Valley's history.

Toward day's end, hot springs alongside the river are a popular gathering spot. It's easy to start conversations comparing the day's events with travelers from all over the world.

Season sports

Between December and March, the waters of the Colca River offer one of the best places in the world for lovers of canoing to practice. The waters are a mix of high-speed rapids, and are very isolated on certain tracks. The upper part, Andagua, and the middle can be navigated in kayaks by experienced sportsmen.

The lower part of the Majes River can be navigated with rubber rafts. It doesn't offer long rapids, but its beautiful landscape and clear waters offer an unforgettable experience. This area can be navigated from April to November.

On the side banks of the river, you can may find lodgings specially conditioned for sportsmen and adventurers, which provide equipment and experienced guides.



A village church in Colca Canyon

Photo by Ron Schwarz

(Photographers contributing to this story are welcome to contact the editorial office for payment.)

How to get there

The journey to Colca Canyon is part of the experience. It's a five-hour drive from Arequipa, Peru's second largest city, much of it over rough dirt roads. You have to cross

5,200-meter-high passes with incredible views and stop at the Salinas Aguada Blanca National Reserve, where you'll learn more about the rugged Andes landscape. You can fly in from Lima or Cuzco, or take a leisurely 1,000 kilometer bus trip south from Lima along the Pan-American Highway and Pacific Coast.

The village that functions as the visitor center for the

canyon area is called Cabanaconde. The village is about six minibuses driving hours from Arequipa, assuming it doesn't break down on the way. The first part of the ride, three hours, is relatively comfortable, but the second half is bumpy.

The bus leaves from Arequipa's central bus station and costs about 20 Sol (50 yuan). It's advised to purchase a round trip ticket, and make sure that the bus company where you bought the ticket has two buses returning from Cabanaconde every day. This way, you will be able to take the first bus, stop on the way to observe the condors, and continue on with the second bus.

(By Han Manman)

Starring:

Kevin Spacey, Annette Bening, Thora Birch, Wes Bentley, Chris Cooper, Peter Gallagher, Allison Janney, Scott Bakula and Sam Robards

Synopsis:

The movie is a wonderful psychological drama about a family. Three members are experiencing emotional trauma but cannot tell each other. We have selected several unrelated parts that are the cleverest of the movie: small but powerful vignettes reflect American community and life through dark, painful irony and cynicism.



American Beauty (1999)

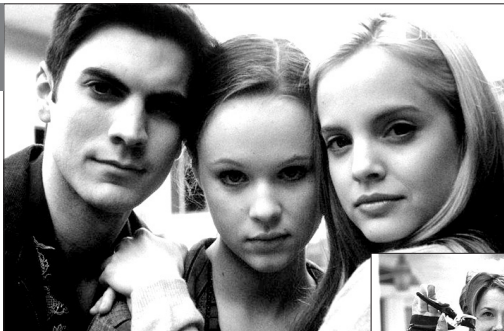
Scene 1: Fitts House – Ricky's bedroom – night

(Jane Burnham lies in bed, wearing a tank top. She's sixteen, with dark, intense eyes.)

Jane: I need a father who's a role model ⁽¹⁾, not some horny ⁽²⁾ geek-boy ⁽³⁾ who's gonna spray his shorts ⁽⁴⁾ whenever I bring a girlfriend home from school. What a lame-o ⁽⁵⁾. Somebody really should put him out of his misery.

Ricky: Want me to kill him for you?

Jane: Yeah, would you?



Scene 2: High school gymnasium

(Angela, fully clothed, is once again surrounded by the other girls. The high school band plays its last note; the Dancing Spartanettes strike their final pose, and the audience applauds. Carolyn claps along with the rest of the audience. Lester just sits there, unable to take his eyes off Angela. The game is long over. Jane and Angela come out of the gym.)

Jane: Oh shit, they're still here.

Lester: Janie!

Carolyn: Hi! I really enjoyed that!

Lester: Congratulations, honey, you were great.

Jane: I didn't win anything.

Lester: (to Angela) Hi, I'm Lester. Janie's dad.

Angela: Oh. Hi.

(An awkward beat.)

Jane: This is my friend, Angela Hayes.

Lester: Okay, good to meet you. You were also good tonight. Very ... precise ⁽⁶⁾.

Angela: (warming) Thanks.

Carolyn: (to Angela) Nice to meet you, Angela. (to Jane)

Honey, I'm so proud of you. I watched you very closely, and you didn't screw up ⁽⁷⁾ once. (then, to Lester) Okay, we have to go.

(She starts toward the parking lot. Lester stays behind.)

Lester: So, what are you girls doing now?

Jane: Dad.

Angela: We're going out for pizza.

Lester: Oh really, do you need a ride? We can give you a ride. I have a car. You wanna come with us?

Angela: Thanks ... but I have a car.

Lester: Oh, you have a car. Oh. That's great! That's great, because Janie's thinking about getting a car soon too, aren't you, honey?

Jane: Dad. Mom's waiting for you.

Lester: Well, it was very nice meeting you, Angela. Any, uh, friend of Janie's is a friend of mine.

(Angela smiles, aware of the power she has over him. He is mesmerized; grateful, even.)



Scene 3: Top Hat Motel – Later that day

(Carolyn and Buddy are in bed, post-sex.)

Carolyn: That was exactly what I needed. The royal treatment ⁽⁸⁾, so to speak. I was so stressed out ⁽⁹⁾.

Buddy: Know what I do when I feel like that?

Carolyn: What?

Buddy: I fire a gun. (Carolyn sits up, eager to learn from the master.)

Carolyn: Really?

Buddy: Oh yeah, I go to this little firing range ⁽¹⁰⁾ downtown, and I just pop off ⁽¹¹⁾ a few rounds.

Carolyn: I've never fired a gun before.

Buddy: Oh, you've gotta try it. Nothing makes you feel more powerful. Well, almost nothing.

Scene 4: Suburban Street – Later that day

(Ricky and Jane walk along without speaking. He seems comfortable with the silence.)

Jane: So how do you like your new house?

Ricky: I like it.

Jane: The people who used to live there fed these stray ⁽¹²⁾ cats, so they were always around, and it drove my mother nuts ⁽¹³⁾. And then she cut down their tree.

Ricky: Have you ever known anybody who died?

Jane: No. Have you?

Ricky: No, but I did see this homeless woman who froze to death once. Just laying there on the sidewalk. She looked really sad. I got that homeless woman on video.

Jane: Why would you film that?

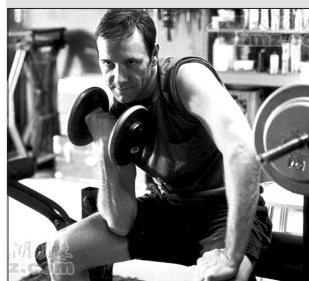
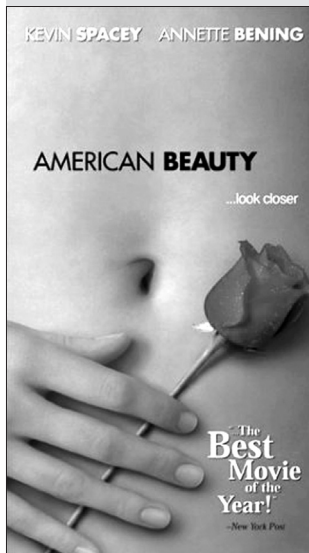
Ricky: Because it was amazing.

Jane: What was amazing about it?

Ricky: When you see something like that, it's like God is looking right at you, just for a second. And if you're careful, you can look right back.

Jane: And what do you see?

Ricky: Beauty.



Vocabulary

1 role model: a person whose behavior, example, or success is or can be emulated by others, especially by younger people.
2 horny: desirous of sexual activity, or sexually aroused.
3 geek-boy: a peculiar or otherwise dislikable person, especially one who is perceived to be

overly intellectual.

4 spray one's shorts: here Jane is referring to her father getting sexually aroused when he meets her schoolmates; the expression means to ejaculate.

5 lame-o: stupid, inept person, from the slang "lame," meaning stupid or inept.

6 precise: originally meaning being exactly that and neither more nor less. Here Lester uses

the word inappropriately to describe the girls' show. However, this word conveys that Lester wants to find something to talk to the girls about, but fails.

7 screw up: to ruin through bungling or stupidity; or to make confused, anxious, or neurotic.

8 royal treatment: Carolyn means she is very satisfied.

9 stressed out: to be subject to or undergo extreme stress, as

from working too much.

10 firing range: a practice range for target practice.

11 pop off: to fire bullets from a gun

12 stray: homeless, or found or occurring apart from others or as an isolated or casual instance:

13 drive somebody nuts: to drive somebody crazy, to make someone mad.

(By Gan Tian)

Blacklist

Beijing Today has come up with Blacklist, a new column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then this page is your new best friend. Watch for it each week.

By Derrick Sobodash

1. "The owner nearly went cry"

To say someone "went" something is a common English expression to show a change in condition. It's generally used with extreme adjectives. You could say someone "went crazy" or "went apes--t." As "cry" is a verb, it doesn't work. Worse yet, the adjective form, "crying," has nothing to do with shedding tears. Instead of the "went" construction, you should use "started." "Started crying" shows a change in action instead of condition, and is perfect for this example.

2. "A teahouse of Ming style"

Again, this simply does not work. Syntactically, it seems correct, but it's not what an English speaker will actually say. The idea here is to show the teahouse is "Ming style." The way to do this is to hyphenate "Ming-style" and place it before the noun: "A Ming-style teahouse." The hyphen is used to clearly illustrate these two words work together to modify the noun as one adjectival unit.

3. "A contract between the alive and the dead"

Technically, there is nothing wrong with this line, except a native speaker will never say it. In this order, it is better to write "the living and the dead." Following "the" with "alive" is extremely awkward on the ears. When using the definite article to refer to people who haven't yet become worm food, "living" is the word of choice. However, in the opposite order, you would say, "He was wanted: dead or alive." When there is no definite article, stick with "alive."

5. Decaying vegetables

This is a particularly correct phrase. "Decay" does have the meaning of "rot," but English speakers would much prefer "rot." This is due to a linguistic subtlety most speakers are unaware of: "decay" entered English from the Romance language family, while "rot" is part of the Germanic family, which makes it native. Germanic words in English usually have a colder, stronger and darker tone, while Romance words are warmer, softer and brighter. Something as putrid and smelly as decomposing vegetables merits that stronger, stinkier word. We would call them "rotting vegetables."

Chinglish story

This column is drawn from amusing daily Chinglish mistakes. If you have any comical experiences to share, send them to Shirley at Shirley_chen@ynet.com.



CFP Photo

By Jiang Xubo

In the past, I never failed to feel passion for the new words and phrases I had picked up here and there, which I would use to try to make myself sound cool at my campus' English corner.

Usually they earned me some freshman's admiration, which made me feel great. Yet, there were also moments of embarrassment, when I risked my reputation with new expressions beyond my vocabulary.

One Friday night, we got together again for English corner. My small group squatted in a circle on the lawn under the starry sky, talking and laughing. Everything was fine until it came to the part, and someone started talk-

ing about *Hero*, one of Zhang Yimou's greatest hits. I happened to be at the premiere in my hometown, so I picked up the topic without hesitation.

"Yes, that movie is really amazing. Absolutely ice cream to the eyes. No doubt," I paused and looked at those young faces, searching for the familiar gaze of admiration. I was disappointed, however; there were just puzzlement in their eyes. Then one guy broke the silence. "Buddy, sorry to interrupt, but what is an ice cream to eyes?"

I was sort of surprised by the question, but I had to say something. "You know, that movie is really cool. The actions, all those costumes and scenes ...

just beautiful," I hesitated to explain. "You mean it's eye candy?" he looked at me with amusement. "But what the hell is ice cream to the eyes," he raised his voice and glanced round the small group, which soon burst into laughter.

What a shame! I blushed, yet I could not help laughing, too.

Soon after I left the English corner that night, I got confirmation that "eye candy" is an expression used to describe something that is most remarkable for its visual appeal. That's exactly what I had meant.

There is a lot of eye candy in this beautiful world. Go and enjoy it, but keep in mind that it has nothing to do with "ice cream."

One step from Chinglish

Below are word-pairs so similar, they often confuse non-native English speakers. Some mistakes have even led to Chinglish jokes.

By Chen Shasha

1. Carved / Curved

Carved is made from or formed by carving, such as "a carved stone"; curved is having or marked by a curve or smoothly rounded bend, for example, "his curved lips suggested a smile but his eyes were hard."

2. Antagonist / Protagonist

An antagonist is a person who is opposed to, struggles

against, or competes with another - the adversary of the hero or protagonist in a drama or other literary work. A protagonist is the leading character, hero, or heroine of a drama or other literary work.

3. Breach / Breech

"Breach" is the act or a result of breaking, for example, "breach of contract." Breech is the lower, rear part of the trunk of the body, for example, "If they think

the baby is in a breech position, an ultrasound may confirm it." In olden times, pants were called "breeches."

4. Bridal / Bridle

Bridal refers to anything pertaining to a bride or a wedding. A bridle is part of the tack or harness of a horse. Bridle can also mean anything that restrains or curbs, for example, "His common sense is a bridle to his quick temper."

Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please take a picture and send them to Shirley_chen @ ynet.com with your name and address.



Don'tstride Over the Balustrade

By Derrick Sobodash

This week's sign is a doozie of inconsistent capitalization and mashed-together words: "Visitor Please You Don'tstride Over The Balustrade Lest Happen to Peril."

When this writer was younger, his parents' favorite punishment was forcing him to copy the English dictionary starting from the "A" section.

Despite having learned strange words like "fraktur," a lettering style formerly used in German, and "absquatulate," a big word for argue, the Chinglish page still manages to leave him scratching his head every week.

Enter "balustrade."

A balustrade is apparently what you get when you lay a rail horizontally across a series of balusters. To answer the next question, "baluster" is fancy word for "a pole."

Now when normal people speak English, that common object constructed by laying a bar across poles and set in places you don't want people to tumble to their deaths is called a "handrail" - fine, it can also be called a "banister." That doesn't excuse sneaking French into these short and simple signs.

Back to the sign.

Anyone reading this is clearly a visitor, and probably understands the sign is intended for him - the reader. Get rid of "Visitor" and "You" and apply that handy handrail tip from the last paragraph.

This gets us to, "Please don't stride over the handrail lest happen to peril." That last part is truly patronizing. Unless the reader somehow believes Wile E. Coyote is real and falling off cliffs just makes a funny "poof" in the dirt, he probably can guess falling off the side of a cliff is not fun. Take this out.

Lastly, "stride" is just awkward. When you say, "striding," it conjures a very jovial image of someone taking ridiculously large steps without looking where he's going. Anyone "striding" will not notice this sign. Most likely, he will fall to his death by "leaning over" the handrail a bit too far and being grabbed by the nefarious villain gravity's 9.8 meters per second strong pull.

"Please don't lean over the handrail," works wonderfully for a corrected sign.

Remember, when commanding someone in English, the fewer words you use, the more likely he will heed them.

Friday, April 6

Exhibition Ji Xiaofeng's Oil Paintings



Where: Beijing Central Art Gallery & Cultural Venue, 02 Riverville Square, Tianzhu, Shunyi

When: Daily 9am-7pm, until April 13

Admission: Free

Tel: 6450 8483, 6450 8646

Morning Glow – Zhou Wenzhong Solo Exhibition



Where: China Blue Gallery, 2-3/F Building 7, Ego Center, 16A Baiziwan Lu, Chaoyang

When: Daily 10am-6pm, until April 25

Admission: Free

Tel: 8774 6332, 8774 6339

Christopher Cook Solo Exhibition

Over the past eight years, Christopher Cook has developed a highly specific process in which graphite powder is combined with oil, resin and solvents and then poured, sprayed or brushed onto sheets of coated paper and coated aluminum, then worked with a variety of implements.

Where: Today Art Museum, No 32 Baiziwan Lu, Chaoyang

When: Daily 9am-5pm, until April 15

Admission: Free

Tel: 5876 0011, 5876 9397

Movie

Jasmine Women (Mo Li Hua Kai)



The first part opens in Shanghai's pre-WWII heyday. Star-struck, innocent Mo falls for talent scout "Boss" Meng's slick patter about becoming a movie star. Though Meng makes good



on his promise, he expects something in return from Mo, and dire family entanglements follow. In the second part set in the late 1950s, Mo has to contend with the socialist zeal of her daughter, Li. Li's boyfriend has trouble with Mo's bourgeois tastes. The final section set in 1978, introduces Hua, the adopted daughter of

Li. Hua has been raised under the watchful eye of Mo, but has secretly married a brilliant fellow student, Du.

Where: Cherry Lane Movies, inside the Kent Center, Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: 8pm

Admission: 50 yuan

Tel: 139 0113 4745

Saturday, April 7

Exhibition Matter Morphosis – Jiao Xingtao Sculpture Show



Where: China Art Seasons, No 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 11am-7pm, until May 6

Admission: Free

Tel: 6431 1900

Group Exhibition of Five Young Artists



Featuring artists including Ma Haifang, Niu Zhiye, Zhang Lijun, Wang Shengcai and Zhang Zhenhua.

Where: New Art Center, No 136 Nanchizi Dajie, Dongcheng

When: Daily 9am-6pm, until April 25

Admission: Free

Tel: 6528 9103

Tian Xifeng Solo Exhibition



Where: Melodic Gallery, No 14 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang

When: Daily 10am-4:30pm, until April 25

Admission: Free

Tel: 6515 8123

Soft Landing – Yuan Shun Solo Exhibition

Where: Beijing Tokyo Art Project, No 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun

10am-6:30pm, until May 6



Admission: Free

Tel: 8457 3245

Outdoor

Eastern Qing Tombs

Where: The Eastern Qing Tombs are a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the largest imperial tombs complex, with surrounding natural landscape in Hebei.

When: Meet at the Chinese Culture Club (Kent Center, No 29 Anjialou Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang) at 8:30am and return at around 6:30pm.

Cost: 250 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041 (Registration is essential.)

Sunday, April 8

Exhibition Decoding of the Signs – Zou Cao Solo Exhibition



Where: L.A. Gallery Beijing, No 319 East End Art, Caochan-gdi, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10:30am-6pm, until May 8

Admission: Free

Tel: 6432 5093, 6432 5073

Scene – Six Artists' Joint Exhibition



Where: First Sound Gallery, No 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 9:30am-6:30pm, until May 31

Admission: Free

Tel: 6431 2501

10 Years Make The Hero – Shen Jingdong Solo Exhibition



Where: Imagine Gallery, Feiji-acun Dong Lu, Cuigezhuang, Laiguangying Dong Lu, Chaoyang

When: Daily 10:30am-5:30pm, until June 6

Admission: Free

Tel: 6438 5747

Chen Hui Solo Exhibition

Where: Courtyard Gallery, No

319 Caochangdi, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sat 11am-7pm, until May 7

Admission: Free

Tel: 6526 8882, 6434 9144

Outdoor

Tap Water Museum

Where: This is the museum to see how Beijing's water supply system works, and learn about water flow and purification techniques. From there, the trip explores the Underground City near Qianmen.

When: Meet at the Chinese Culture Club at 2pm and return at 5:30pm.

Cost: 150 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041

Stage in May

Music

Symphony Concert

Who: China Philharmonic Orchestra

Where: Beijing Concert Hall, No 1 Bei Xinhua Dajie, Xicheng

When: 7:30pm, May 13

Admission: 50-680 yuan

Orchestre National de Lille Concert

Who: Orchestre National de Lille (France)

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm, May 19

Admission: 50-380 yuan

Symphony Concert Season

Who: China National Symphony Orchestra

Where: Beijing Concert Hall, No 1 Bei Xinhua Dajie, Xicheng

When: 7:30pm,

May 19 - July 21

Admission: 50-580 yuan

Piano Solo Concert

Who: Rosa Torres Pardo

Where: Poly Theater, No 14 Dongzhimen Nan Lu, Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm, May 21

Admission: 30-200 yuan

Dance

Swan Lake

Who: Ukrainian National Opera Ballet

Where: Beijing Exhibition Theater, No 135 Xizhimen Wai Dajie, Xicheng District

When: 7:30pm, May 1

Admission: 80-880 yuan

Broadway Rhythm

Who: BYU Young

Ambassadors

Where: Poly Theater, No 14 Dongzhimen Nan Lu, Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm, May 18-19

Admission: 80-480 yuan

Giselle and Entre-lacs

Who: Paris Opera Ballet and the National Ballet of China

Where: Tianqiao Theatre, No 30 Beiwei Lu, Xuanwu

When: 7:30pm, May 18-20

Admission: 80-880 yuan

La Leyenda, Aires de Villay Corte and El Caf  de Chinitas

Who: Spanish National Ballet

Where: Tianqiao Theatre, No 30 Beiwei Lu, Xuanwu

When: 7:30pm, May 24-26

Admission: 80-680 yuan

Drama

Heinu Hutian Lu

(A Record of a Black Slave)

As the closing ceremony of Beijing International Play Theater, the musical play A Record of a Black Slave will give the audience a deep thought upon human nature. Actors are showing their character by wearing different colors of flowers. Beijing Symphony Orchestra will play the music at the stage.

Who: Beijing Children Art Theater

Where: The Great Hall of the People, west of Tian'anmen Square

When: 7:30pm, May 3

Admission: 300-500 yuan

(By Qiu Jiaoning)